Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

2842 Main Street #259, Glastonbury, CT 06033 • Phone (860) 533-1163
www.chcca.net
MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972

2013

PRESIDENT
Eric D'Eramo
ENCON
1265 Woodend Road
Stratford, CT 06010
(203) 375-5228

PRESIDENT ELECT
Seamus Warakomski
Tri City Heating & Cooling
362 New Haven Avenue
Milford, CT 06460
(203) 874-5228

VICE PRESIDENT
Vacancy

TREASURER
Ralph Fico
Duct Diagnostics
195 Elizabeth Street
Derby, CT 06418
(203) 231-0605

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Jennings

DIRECTORS

Robert Besaw
Edgerton, Inc.
(203) 268-6279

Jim Chard
F.J. Chard & Son
(860) 675-8076

Gary Corliss
Control Aire Supply
(800) 443-2473

Hank Cullinane
Clover Corp.
(860) 528-0081

Jeff Leone
Air Temp Mechanical
(860) 953-8888

Bryan Mackenzie
R & B Refrigeration
(203) 453-6831

Steve Szypulski
The Star Supply Co.
(203) 772-2240

LOBBYIST
Andrew Markowski
Statehouse Associates, LLC

TESTIMONY OF
JENNIFER JENNINGS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BEFORE THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 21, 2013

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments *supporting* **SB-322** & **HB-5149**, An Act Concerning Home Improvement Contractors & An Act Concerning Testing & Licensing Of Home Improvement Contractors:

Members of the heating and cooling industry support these bills which would require home improvement contractors to pass a state exam and demonstrate knowledge of their trade before performing work on individuals' homes. This is no more burdensome of a requirement than the long established state licensing system that currently exists for all occupational and building trades.

State law establishes a licensing system for several occupational trades overseen by the Examining Boards for Heating, Piping, and Cooling Work; Electrical Work; Plumbing and Piping Work; Elevator Installation, Repair, and Maintenance Work; Automotive Glass Work and Flat Glass Work; and Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Boards. Each trade has different levels of expertise—apprentice, journeyman, and contractor. Workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to qualify for each level. Some trades also include a mandatory continuing education requirement. Members of the heating and cooling trades who hold unlimited licenses are qualified to perform any and all work related to their trade. The occupational licensing boards, which are comprised of both union and non-union contractors as well as the general public, also provide an important mechanism for ensuring the consistent and fair enforcement of the state's licensing laws. Because the boards provide balanced representation of the industry, license holders respect their decisions. Currently, no such system or requirements exist for home improvement contractors other than a simple registration process. Almost anyone can register to be a home improvement contractor, despite lacking any relevant credentials or experience, thus putting homeowners at risk.

Passage of this legislation is necessary and desired by all tradespersons in the industry to ensure that homeowners are safe and that work is done only by competent, skilled and trained tradespersons. Far too many contractors do not maintain the proper licenses or qualifications, creating public safety concerns. These laws must be vigorously enforced to protect consumers and employees. Strong enforcement of the state's licensing and apprenticeship laws relative to the heating and cooling industry along with all licensed trades is paramount. Ensuring that individuals performing work are held to high standards helps maintain the highest possible level of safety, training and professionalism for our industry, and for consumers, and home improvement contractors should be no exception.

CHCC thanks Committee for its consideration of our comments and urges passage of these bills.

CHCC would also like to comment on **HB-5908**, An Act Requiring Safety And Certification Standards For the Spray Foam Insulation Industry: As an industry that is engaged in the installation, maintenance and repair of heating and cooling equipment and general climate control measures, the use of spray foam insulation is something we have knowledge of and experience dealing with. To the extent that this legislation should move forward and safety and certification requirements are to be developed by DCP, DPH and DEEP, CHCC would ask to be part of that conversation so that we may offer our input and expertise on the matter. Furthermore, we would caution against enacting any requirements that are duplicative, unnecessary or unduly burdensome on licensed HVAC contractors. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

CHCC is a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.