

**Good Afternoon, My name is Dan Senft, I reside in Stratford, CT. and I am currently the Eastern Regional Sales Manager for GAF Materials Corporation, who is headquartered in Wayne, NJ. GAF is the leading roofing manufacturer in North America and specifically the State of Connecticut. I have been in the roofing business for over thirty years, working throughout our State.**

**Fourteen years ago, I was called on by the State of Connecticut's Department of Transportation, to inspect existing salt sheds, throughout our highway corridors. Many of these sheds had shingles that had fallen off these structures. The state engineers that I met felt that there was an issue with the performance of the shingles. In fact, upon inspection, all roofs that had failures were due to the workmanship, or lack of workmanship of the contractors that installed them. When I inquired to who had installed these roofs, some of which were only a few years old, the engineers looked at one another and didn't know who the contractors were, when they were installed, or even if the contractors were qualified to install those roofs.**

**With over twenty new sheds being built by the DOT and another twenty that now needed to be replaced, the DOT wanted to make sure that going forward, they needed a contractor that was not only licensed and insured properly, but one that would be certified by the manufacturer to guarantee his workmanship. Today, every salt shed, new and existing throughout our state, that have had their roofs replaced, were installed by a GAF Certified Contractor, whose workmanship was backed by GAF.**

**Through this feedback from the DOT and other consumers and professional contractors throughout the country, GAF was the first manufacturer to initiate a Certified Contractor Program. This program was designed specifically to certify contractors in the application of our roofing products and to provide the consumer with their best and safest choice, when making a decision on having a new roof installed. On an annual basis, GAF monitors these select contractors to make sure they are properly licensed in the state they work, have the proper insurances, have high ratings with the Better Business Bureau, have no outstanding claims with the Department of Consumer Protection and complete educational and application courses throughout the year. By the way, these contractors pay GAF to be in this program.**

**These salt sheds are a small example of the many municipalities, businesses and homes throughout the state, and our country, that have been victimized by a poorly installed roof. However, this is certainly not limited to the roofing trade. In my dealings with the State of Connecticut Department of Consumers Protection, the state agents have conveyed an overwhelming pile of claims from consumers, who have had issues, due to poor workmanship, from many contractors in all the trades.**

**In the State of Florida, after Hurricane Andrew, building codes and contractor certification became more stringent after many homes and businesses were compromised not only from the effects of the storm, but from the poor workmanship of the contractor base in those areas. Florida now requires that all contractors pass a two day exam that covers business, finance and trade knowledge. To become a licensed certified contractor, an applicant must pass all parts of the exam, meet education/experience requirements, obtain worker's compensation coverage and demonstrate financial responsibility. The contractor must include a credit report with their application package from a list of acceptable credit report agencies.**

**I strongly support Representative Rose's bill HB-5149. However, I believe this bill needs to be expanded, to include some of the same or similar requirements that I presented to you from the State of Florida.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Daniel D. Senft**