

Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

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MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER JENNINGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE LABOR COMMITTEE MARCH 14, 2013

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments opposing SB-1075, An Act Concerning Construction Services And Nonwage Payments:

CHCC opposes this bill because our contractors are concerned that this legislation could have broad implications for our industry as well as others involved in the construction services industry. Specifically, CHCC opposes legislation that creates yet another burdensome and unnecessary requirement on HVAC contractors and other related businesses. This legislation amounts to unneeded financial reporting. In our industry, contractors already file 1099 documentation when applicable. The increased costs of compliance required under this legislation would simply be passed on to consumers. Furthermore, why is the construction industry being singled out? This legislation amounts to another anti-competitive building obstacle to fostering growth in jobs and the attraction of out of state businesses to move here.

CHCC would like to note that we are supportive of attempts to address those who are working "under the table" while also collecting unemployment. We would be very supportive of finding and penalizing individuals and businesses that are attempting to "Double Dip" the system by receiving unemployment benefits and working "side jobs". We would like to join the Commissioner and the Administrator of the Unemployment Compensation fund on that solution, but SB-1075 is not the way to do that.

CHCC also opposes SB-910, An Act Concerning Employee Access To Personnel Files:

CHCC opposes this bill because it raises far more questions than answers, and will unduly burden small HVAC contractors who don't have human resources staff at their disposal. The "three day" requirement contained in line 4 of the bill is especially onerous. The lack of a definition for "disciplinary action" also puts contractors in a difficult position. Does correcting an apprentice on a job site who installed something incorrectly count as disciplinary action? What if repeated corrections are necessary? What if such corrections are to ensure compliance with OSHA requirements, or building code requirements? Must every conversation that takes place in the field now be documented if it could even remotely be considered disciplinary action?

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and CHCC urges the Committee to take no action on the two aforementioned bills.

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.

2013

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