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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 6524
AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING CODE ADOPTION CYCLES
AND DUTIES OF BUILDING OFFICIALS**

**Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing
March 18, 2013**

Chairs Hartley and Dargan, Ranking Members Giegler and Guglielmo, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 6524, AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING CODE ADOPTION CYCLES AND DUTIES OF BUILDING OFFICIALS. Specifically, I offer testimony in support of section 3 which is intended to enhance public safety by ensuring that inspections are being performed by qualified individuals.

While most building officials and assistant building officials are qualified to perform mechanical inspections, we need to recognize that current requirements allow for some officials to do so without experience in those trades. As the old adage suggests, there is no substitute for experience.

Should the Public Safety and Security Committee choose to move this section forward, I would ask that the committee consider adding some exceptions. It is reasonable to believe that public safety is not compromised by a building official's acceptance of an inspection report from a fire marshal. Also, according to the CT State Building Code, the Building Official is "...authorized to accept reports of approved inspection agencies..." An example of this is the acceptance of a report from inspectors that have certifications from organizations such as the American Concrete Institute, the American Welding Society, etc. Lastly, modular homes manufactured outside of Connecticut are subject to inspection by third party inspection companies.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony. I respectfully request that you give consideration to moving this bill forward after incorporating these changes.