



CT-PHCC

PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
TINAMARIE BERGER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 7, 2013** *HB 6208*

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **supports HB-5048 and HB-6209**, both concerning the sale of copper to scrap metal processors. PHCC supports these bills as common-sense initiatives that will help to deter and reduce copper theft.

Copper theft is a big problem and one that unfortunately impacts our industry along with other industries in the building and construction trades. Plumbing and heating contractors have had to reinstall countless high-dollar waterline systems and other valuable piping and equipment due to thieves, and often contractors' insurers are the ones who feel the negative impacts of this theft. This serves to only increase costs for consumers and contractors alike, while the salvage yards continue to purchase this stolen copper.

There are reports from contractors who visit scrap yards and witness ridiculous incidents such as like-new copper tubing that has been supposedly sold as "scrap." Until common sense requirements like requiring documentation and identification of sellers of scrap can be implemented, the thefts and profiteering will only continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and PHCC urges passage of both bills.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.