

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
TESTIMONY MARCH 5, 2014 RE: H.B. 5461**

SENATOR MAYNARD, REPRESENTATIVE GUERRERA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN. I REPRESENT PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777. THIS TESTIMONY IS IN OPPOSITION TO SECTION 4 OF HB - 5461.

LINE 189 OF THIS SECTION WOULD EXEMPT PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY FROM THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR OVER 45 YEARS. I HAVE HELD AN UNLIMITED JOURNEYMAN'S LICENSE FOR BOTH PLUMBING and HEATING PIPING AND COOLING FOR 44 YEARS. IN ORDER TO MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS I HAD TO SERVE A FIVE YEAR APPRENTICESHIP BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION FOR THESE LICENSES. THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR THE TRAINING PERIOD CONSIDERING THE KNOWLEDGE ONE MUST HAVE IN ORDER TO INSTALL SYSTEMS CORRECTLY AND IN A SAFE MANNER. REMEMBER THESE LICENSES ARE NECESSARY, BY STATUTES, TO INSTALL HIGH PRESSURE STEAM SYSTEMS, CHEMICAL SYSTEMS AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF GASES, ALL OF WHICH ARE HIGHLY VOLATILE. ANY MISTAKES COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR EVEN DEATH. IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW THESE INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM TASKS WHICH INCLUDE SHEET METAL, ELEVATOR, FIRE PROTECTION AND ELECTRICAL WITHOUT THE PROPER TRAINING.

AN AIRPORT PROBABLY HAS MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, THOUSANDS ON A DAILY BASIS, PASSING THROUGH THAN ANY OTHER FACILITY I CAN THINK OF. THESE PEOPLE COULD BE AT RISK OF INJURY OR EVEN DEATH IF A SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED INCORRECTLY.

LICENSING EXAMS ARE THE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR OBTAINING A LICENSE. ANYONE THAT HAS NOT SERVED AN APPRENTICESHIP BUT HAS ACQUIRED COMPARABLE TRAINING FROM A SOURCE WHERE A LICENSE WAS NOT REQUIRED, EITHER IN THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER, CAN TAKE THE APPROPRIATE EXAM. IT IS NOT A LENGTHY PROCESS TO OBTAIN A LICENSE IF A PERSON HAS THE PROPER QUALIFICATIONS. IF THIS BILL IS PASSED IT WILL OPEN THE DOOR FOR OTHER QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES TO ASK FOR THE SAME CONSIDERATION.

FOR THESE REASONS WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU DELETE SECTION 4 BEFORE VOTING TO MOVE THIS BILL FORWARD. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF ANY MORE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED PLEASE CONTACT ME AT EMAIL camc@att.net OR CELL (860) 287-0020.