



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

February 24, 2015

To: Senator Carlo Leone, Co-Chairman
Representative David Baram, Co-Chairman
Members of the General Law Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **HB 6808, AAC the Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

The HBRA of Connecticut has serious concerns with HB 6808. Many of our associate members are in the licensed trades and our builder and remodeler members routinely hire the licensed trades to help construct new homes and renovate existing homes.

Background: We are very aware of the tug of war among various licensed and unlicensed trades when it comes to scope of practice. In the past, we have opposed certain licensing bills because the scope of work under the license is not well defined or subject to too much interpretation. Such a license could intrude on the work routinely done by others. Disputes would arise between various trades (again, licensed and unlicensed), and such disputes create havoc on the job site. Projects are delayed or become more expensive. Individual businesses could be caught up in appeals to various licensing boards at DCP. None of these results are good for the end consumer, nor for individual businesses who feel wrongly accused of conducting work that a licensed trade contractor or organization alleges should be licensed work.

Unfortunately, HB 6808, like last year's SB 412, provides more authority, and exclusive authority, to the licensed trade boards. These boards are populated by individuals in a particular licensed trade. They have a vested interest in protecting the scope of work of their own area. They should not be sole arbiters of scope of practice disputes. Rather, the current construct of requiring boards to report alleged licensing violations to the more objective review at the Department level is a better approach. **HB 6808 could lead to unfair results and an increase in disciplinary actions, including more referrals to the Attorney General. We do not see why this is warranted, and urge the committee to take no action on HB 6808.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

"Building CT's Economy, Communities and Better Lives with Advocacy and Knowledge that Solves Our Member's Problems."