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BEFORE THE
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
HOUSE BILL # 1357
STATE LICENSURE OF PLUMBERS

TESTIMONY OF
CHARLES F. LORAM
FRANK T. LORAM INC.

Dear Chairwoman Harhart, Chairman Readshaw, and the members of Professional Licensure Committee.

My name is CHARLES LORAM. I am a Master Plumber with my family company, FRANK T. LORAM INC., located at 416 Philmont Ave. Feasterville Pa. 19053. My father started this company in 1994, and I have followed in his footsteps. Together, we now provide plumbing services for many local families and businesses. Please accept this as my written testimony, in support of H.B. # 1357, the State Licensure of Plumbers. I urge you to take the time to read below why we support this Bill, and why you should as well.

I would like to start by citing the most important reason to support H.B. #1357, COMSUMER PROTECTION. H.B. #1357 will correct a major flaw in the Home Improvement Contractor Registration, within the State Attorney General's office. As of today, any person who purchases the minimum insurance policy to complete the H.I C. application, and has enough money to pay the registration fee, can receive a HIC License. With this HIC License, that person can now advertise to provide plumbing services to Pennsylvania consumers. Again, an individual with no schooling, no training, and no testing in the plumbing trade can now advertise they have a License to provide plumbing services to Pa. consumers. This is a Big Problem. It completely undermines the purpose of the HIC Registration and puts Pennsylvanians needing plumbing services at Risk. Pennsylvanian consumers are being misled. So Here is how we can change that, HOUSE BILL # 1357. This Bill will provide the means for which a Pa consumer can check and verify that an individual or company claiming to be a Licensed Plumbing Contractor, has in fact been schooled, trained, and tested as a plumber. Pennsylvanians deserve the right to know who is who when hiring someone for plumbing repairs or installations. I will not bore you with listing everything it took for me to become a Licensed Master Plumber, only that it was a heck of a lot more then buying

insurance and paying a fee. I will not take your time by going in depth on how my trade is instrumental to Health and Safety. I will only remind you that the Plumbing Trade is responsible for installing and repairing that which brings clean drinking water to your, and your constituents homes & businesses, as well as installing and repairing that which removes waste water from them. HOUSE BILL # 1357 will bring Pennsylvania up to speed with our surrounding states, all of which have a State Plumbing License. In fact, Pennsylvania is 1 of only 6 States in the Country, that does Not have a State Plumbing License.

In closing, I again ask you to support the passage of HOUSE BILL # 1357, as it is an important step to not only protect the consumers of the Commonwealth, but to promote the business interest of all Professional Plumbing Contractors in the state of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles F. Loram', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles F. Loram

