



**PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
DUCT CLEANING & MORE!**

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

My Name is John McCuen Jr. and I am the owner of John McCuen Inc. Plumbing Heating Air Conditioning. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-1357, The State Licensure of Plumbers.

I would like to explain some of the issues I have run into with the consumers of Pennsylvania. As of now in Pennsylvania anyone can call themselves a plumber, there is nowhere for the consumer to check and see if they are hiring a qualified plumber that went to school and served their apprenticeship to learn their craft. If we had a state license they could look it up on a website to check that person. The state license would enhance the state's attorney general's registration. This has become a mess with local townships and boroughs that assume the registration is a license and do not ask for proof that you are a Master Plumber and issues permits to anyone. Also I can tell you first hand that I have seen this issue of NO STATE LICENSE cost consumers hard earned money because of inferior work done by people portraying themselves as plumbers. When we explain the problem people cannot believe that a Trade that works with Water, Gas, Electric, Waste, and Carbon Monoxide to state a few, that no State License is required or that no State License exists. We had a call for water condensing on the pipes in a basement in the winter. When we arrived we had a carbon monoxide tester with us. We turned on the tester and it read 1900 PPM. We found the chimney to be blocked. This is after a new water heater was installed by a HANDYMAN, not a LICENSED PLUMBER. Luckily we shut the units down and cleared the home and fixed the chimney problem properly.

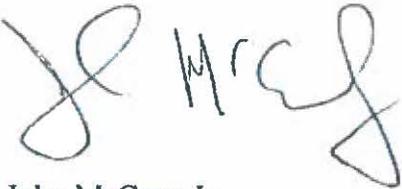
Another issue we run into is that there is no reciprocity between states because Pennsylvania has no state license. Because we are one of only 6 states without a license this limits my company from working in New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, to name

only a few, but Plumbers from those states can work here AND THEY DO ALL THE TIME. This is lost revenue for the state along with lost job opportunities for my company.

If we had a state license it would also bring income to Pennsylvania because Plumbers from other states would have to purchase a license from this state to work here. Also it would save the Licensed Plumber from not having to run to every local municipality for a license and passing the cost to the consumer. It would also make sure that we have continued education, to keep the Plumbers current on new things going on in the trade. Plumbing is a profession. The proper plumbers spend time in education and on the job training. That is why it is a fact that "The Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation". It is still a confusing issue to me that in Pennsylvania we need a License to cut, style and braid hair, but no license is needed for Plumbing. I assume that when you turn your faucet on at home you never think "how did this water get here and did they install it correctly?" and more importantly "IS IT SAFE TO DRINK AND WASH THE KIDS IN?" If piping is done incorrectly this could sicken or even kill people. That is why I take our trade so seriously and want to make sure all consumers are safe!!!!

In closing, I again ask you to please support the passage of House Bill # 1357 as I feel it is an important step to not only protect the consumers of the Commonwealth but to promote the business interests of all Professional Plumbers and Plumbing Contractors in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McCuen Jr". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John McCuen Jr
John McCuen Inc. Plumbing Heating Air Conditioning