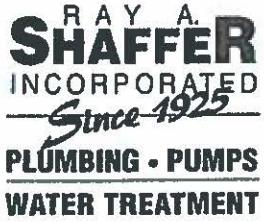


Before the
Professional Licensure Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Public Hearing Regarding
House Bill #1357
State Licensure of Plumbers

Testimony of
Christina Hedrick
President
Ray A Shafffer, Inc.



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PA #011773

November 23, 2015

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

My name is Tina Hedrick and I am President of Ray A Shaffer, Inc. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-1357, the State Licensure of Plumbers. Ray A Shaffer, Inc. is a small plumbing contractor company located in Schwenksville, Montgomery County since 1925. We employ (2) master plumbers and (1) journeyman plumber.

This legislation initially was introduced as a Practice Act then converted to a Title Act at the request of some Labor Organizations and special interest groups. However, since the conversion to a Title Act, HB-1357 is supported by both Labor and Open Shop equally.

By enacting HB-1357, the consumer's of Pennsylvania will benefit by having a highly trained, registered and licensed plumber, who has gone thru state accredited schooling. The consumer can be assured that they are allowing in





their homes and/or business a plumber that possess the technical background to provide services on their piping systems which provides safe drinking water as well as protecting the environment of waste disposal in a safe and ethical manner. The universal motto of the Plumbing Industry worldwide is "The Plumber Protects The Health Of The Nation". We are professionals in our trade and feel the same sense of duty to protect the public and the environment as do our elected officials.

Under HB-1357, the consumer would have the ability to look up via the State website if the person they are allowing in their home/business is truly a "Licensed Plumbing Contractor" and not a person with just an HIC number and no proper training in the industry. Again, this legislation will help insure the rights, health, safety and economic wellbeing of all consumers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania is one of six states in the country that does not have a state license. Thus allowing our neighboring states, who do require plumbers to be license, to come into Pennsylvania and take away our work and our livelihood. However, we cannot do the same. We get turned away from our neighboring states since we have no consistent or uniform method of licensing plumbers. This legislation would put Pennsylvania Plumbers on a more level playing field and give the Commonwealth a mechanism to deny out of State plumbers the right to work in Pennsylvania if their home state does not offer the same benefit to Pennsylvania Plumbers.

Each year we spend hours filling out forms and thousands of dollars to purchase licenses for each and every borough and/or township that we do work in. Under this legislation we would pay for one license that would be recognized state wide. This would be a significant cost savings for our business and the consumer. This legislation, if passed, would potentially generate millions of dollars annually for the State of Pennsylvania in licensing fees. These funds could be used for things like school funding, after school programs, Head Start programs and assistance for the elderly and our Vets, just to name a few.



This legislation does not deal with permitting or permit requirements. It deals only with who is legally permitted to call themselves and advertise themselves as a licensed plumber.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Hedrick".

Christina Hedrick