



12/03/15

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

Testimony of:
Craig A. Williams
President
Mill Creek, Inc, T/A RG Williams Plumbing and Heating

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

My name is Craig Williams and I am president of RGWilliams Plumbing and Heating. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-1357, the State Licensure of Plumbers.

I began my involvement in the plumbing field in 1978 as the second generation of master plumbers in our family. We have been instrumental in the education and "local" licensing of plumbing apprentices and journeyman since 1965 and since that time perusing State Licensure. Unfortunately, the majority of the state of Pennsylvania has no means of education and/or testing whatsoever and those that call themselves "Plumbers" are nothing more than uneducated, inexperienced dangerous hacks that sell themselves as "Plumbers" to the public with no means for the residences of the state to check their qualifications. We read and hear about these types every day.

I feel the need of State Licensure has never been greater than right now due to the overwhelming evidence of plumbing system failures causing illness and death to the consumers of this state. Pennsylvania is one of only six states in the nation that does not have State Licensure and should clearly see that the lack of State Licensure is dangerous to the lives of our residences.

All of Pennsylvania's bordering states have State Licensure and without State Licensure in Pennsylvania the plumbing contractors of this state are experiencing unfair

competition, as the plumbers from our neighboring states can use their state licenses to obtain licensure and permits in other states but we have no state license for reciprocity, hence, unfair competition.

With State Licensure sales in place the state would also experience an economic boon providing funding for education of plumbing professionals and residences of this state.

The plumbers in Pennsylvania have a huge responsibility to protect the health of the state's residences through the use of sanitary water and drainage system practices.

Please support HB #1357 to protect consumers and offer ethical business practices to the residences and businesses in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Williams