

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

TESTIMONY OF  
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**PMC Mechanical LP**  
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December 2, 2015

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

My name is Tom Herrmann and I am President of PMC Mechanical, LP, 15 S. Ridge Avenue, Amber, PA 19002. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-1357, the State Licensure of Plumbers. I have been a Union Plumber since 1983 and Master Plumber since 1992.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** I believe this legislation would benefit the consumers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by insuring that persons calling themselves "Plumbers" or "providing plumbing services to the public" are in fact qualified to do so. Under this proposed legislation, a consumer would have the ability to look up via a State website a person calling himself a "Plumber" or a "Licensed Plumbing Contractor" to determine whether or not this person is in fact licensed and possess the technical background to provide services in their home or place of business. There have been many scenarios where our company has had to repair or correct work done by a "so called plumber" and the unfortunate circumstance of the consumer paying a second time to have the work done correctly by a Professional Plumber/Plumbing Contractor. This legislation would enhance the registration currently being done by the State Attorney General's office.

**RECIPROCITY:** Pennsylvania is one of six states in the country that does not have state licensure. All of the states bordering Pennsylvania do, in fact, have a state license structure and many of the Townships and Municipalities in the Commonwealth accept these licenses from other states thus allowing out of state plumbing contractors to work in the Commonwealth. It is difficult for Pennsylvania Plumbing Contractors to, in fact, work in the states bordering Pennsylvania as we have no consistent or uniform method of licensing plumbers.

**ECONOMICS:** Under this legislation millions of dollars will be generated for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that can be used to fund things like education, after school programs, elder care, etc. Purchasing one state license as opposed to every small Township or Municipality you work in will save your customer money by reducing the cost of purchasing multiple licenses.

**PROFESSIONALISM:** The Plumbing Industry is in fact an industry asking for more government interaction. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a person is required to have a state license to cut, style or braid hair but in our trade, if piping systems are done incorrectly they could sicken or even kill masses of people, there is no regulation. "The Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation" and as Professional Plumbers, we feel the same sense of responsibility to protect the consumers as do our elected officials. It is our responsibility to provide safe drinking water to all consumers as well as to protect the environment to dispose of waste in a safe and ethical manner.

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 interest of all Professional Plumbers and Plumbing Contractors in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Herrmann