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HOMELAND SECURITY

Testimony on HB 2666

House Commerce and Economic Development Committee

February 14, 2012

In 2005 a stakeholder group consisting of HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical contractors was formed in an effort to provide a consolidated voice for industry specific legislation. Included in this group are code enforcement officials, owners, city and county elected officials, state legislators, education providers and wholesale suppliers.

This group is dedicated to working on issues of a common concern and over the years has provided numerous pieces of legislation after due diligence and compromise discussions. As a group we cover the entire spectrum of technicians, owners and code officials that work in the construction industry on a daily basis and represent geographic areas that cover the entire state.

The group has spent many hours in direct contact to work out the language for **HB 2666** and as a result what you have before you is the document that represents the compromise this group has endorsed to address this license vs. certificate issue.

We discussed the advantage of allowing the technician to sit for an examination at the best possible time to insure success, that being directly upon receiving his formal training. This language provides the clarity to allow the sitting for the examination while retaining the time restriction for a "license". The time frame has been made consistent across the mechanical disciplines.

Some code jurisdictions have a restriction as to when a "license" can be issued and is normally after two years **field experience** working as a helper before receiving their Journeyman license and then two more years before getting their master license. This compromise allows the technician to take the approved test and receive a "certificate" of completion at the most opportune time, retain the restriction for the "license" process and reinforce "field experience" provision.

Rep. Phelps and I have been involved with this stakeholder group since its inception and have partnered on many excellent pieces of legislation that has had a direct and positive impact on our industry.

I appear before you today in full support of this legislation and will stand for questions.