

To whom this may concern,

My name is John T. Higgins Jr. I have been a resident of Connecticut for 55 years. I reside at 1043 East Main Street, Stratford. I have been in the plumbing and pipefitting industry for 37 years. I served an apprenticeship and hold two DCP issued licenses (S2-353134 and P2-265348). I am also an Unlimited Journeyman member of the State Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheetmetal Board for the past ten years. Trade licensing is important to our industry. Connecticut Occupational Licenses are issued by "The Department of Consumer Protection" I see nothing in SB-13 that is a benefit to any consumer, I see exactly the opposite. Licenses protect your constituents, the consumer. Trade practices differ from all locations of the USA, being educated and skilled in the area you work in is extremely important to the tradesperson, the employer and most of all the end user. Allowing a person holding a license in another state for two years to sit for a Connecticut License is a mistake that could have dire consequences. In my trade, an applicant for a S2 or P2 must have 8,000 hours of on the job training and 720 hours of related instruction in a curriculum specific to the requirements of the state of Connecticut. As a licensing board member, I have seen many people from other States trying to get a CT License. With the exception of MA and RI, it is very difficult to match their home state credential to a CT credential. In many cases when we can establish what training an applicant has received the board will match them up to an appropriate limited license that matches their training and advise them what is needed to get them to the license they are seeking. I write you today in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of SB-13. I urge you to **OPPOSE** this bill and protect Connecticut residents from the actions of unqualified trades people.

Thank you,

*John Higgins Jr.*