

To: House Local Government Committee

January 28, 2013

Subject: HB 2035 trade education

Honorable Chairman Huebert and Committee Members,

I am a second generation master plumber from Wichita, that was accepted into our statewide plumbing and pipefitting union a couple of decades ago.

I am also the secretary for the Kansas Mechanical Trades Stakeholders. We are a volunteer group of building officials, inspectors, trade organizations, associations, unions, contractors, suppliers and trades persons.

Our decade old group meets two or three times a year, to discuss issues and to reach agreement on any proposed legislation. We seek to agree between ourselves, before proposing statute changes to the legislature.

Last year building officials expressed a concern about a lack of experience of some new plumbers, hvac mechanical and electrical journeymen. We considered changing the required years of experience from two to three years. We did not propose that change because a statewide vote was mixed. We did not propose it because it was not well settled amongst us.

This year we are agreed and would like to update the education alternative of one year's experience, for those jurisdictions that do require journeymen certification and those applicants that take the state standard examination. We surveyed technical schools, who are now offering this training, and the minimum was 930 hours of program training.

On behalf of our Chairman Ray Frederick and the Stakeholders, we request you approve HB2035 which changes, "240 hours of classroom training" to "930 program hours documented with a certificate of completion."

Lonny Wright, Juris Doctor  
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