

Honorable Westchester County Legislators

My name is Mario Bruni and I represent the independent master plumbers of Westchester THE IMPW for those of you who may be unfamiliar, We are the Merit or Open shop plumbers in Westchester and we comprise about 75% of the plumbing community in Westchester. The IMPW is represented here as are our partners in the plumbing community from local 21 Plumbing Union and from the Mechanical Contractors Association.

On October 7, this legislation was introduced at the board of legislators meeting. That's when we found out that the department of consumer protection was drafting changes to this law. Not only was the IMPW blindsided, but we contacted our industry companions at the union and they claimed no knowledge of them either. We contacted the chair of the plumbing license board and she said that board was unaware and didn't have any input into these changes either. No one in the industry was involved in these changes. Why these amendments were drafted with zero industry input, and zero input from your own License board particularly if they worked on these for a couple of years – is astonishing.

Something like this wouldn't normally be so secretive.

Now I was told in no uncertain terms that this legislation will be voted into law within the next couple of weeks or so, and there is zero possibility of any changes based on our suggestions. After taking a couple of years to write this legislation, why the big rush now? Why won't our suggestions, be considered and incorporated as necessary to correct the flaws that we see in it already?

It was intimated at the legislative committee meeting that there may be pending litigation that the county is attempting to somehow forestall. However, a call to the plumbing board resulted

in their indicating they have no knowledge of any pending litigation against the County. What's going on here?

This legislation as written is flawed. Every licensed plumber stands to be in violation of this law at some point in his business and he or she can't control it. It's a major flaw amongst several other flaws in this legislation. I sent each one of you a letter outlining just a couple of suggestions for improvement— none of which have been adopted. I was told this week in no uncertain terms that "...this legislation will pass as is, and our suggestions, although reasonable, can be discussed next year for possible additional changes at that time...". That makes no sense. Given 60 days we could make improvements to this legislation to make it work now, it's absurd to expect to go through this process again next year to correct what you're doing now.

We ask that you delay this legislation and give the plumbing industry opportunity for meaningful input prior to its passage. Thank you very much.