

January 10, 2022

Maine State House
Maine State Legislation IDEA Committee
210 State Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Greetings,

Please excuse my tardiness in expressing my voice now and not during the time the committee was hearing public testimony. While I am sure you've heard from many who fall on either side of this bill, I want to express quickly why and how licensing will result in a higher standard of professionalism, craftsmanship and safety. As a lifelong resident of Maine, please allow me to express myself.

We know that properly installed mechanical insulation saves money, improves lives and protects the environment. In fact, according to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE), properly installed mechanical insulation provides long-term energy efficiency, emission reduction, cost savings and safety benefits. [ASHRAE](#) has stated that insulation can reduce the number of tons of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, prevent loss of energy, control condensation, protect occupant safety and public health wellness, and regulate surface temperature.

However, the improper installation of mechanical insulation can result in a host of problems. If not installed correctly it can cause a mechanical system to fail completely. The system might not fail immediately, but it certainly will not be able to live out its life expectancy. That's not the only result. By not being insulated properly the system will work harder and more often to regulate surface temperature causing the mechanical system to use more energy, therefore, increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Mold can become an issue as well. Many pipes, pumps, and tanks are in dark, dank and damp rooms. These environments are breeding grounds for mold spores. These types of conditions in a school or hospital can have devastating and costly effects.

I am a lifelong Maine resident. I also own a mechanical insulation company in Massachusetts that employs many Maine residents. Why Massachusetts? Because I can provide customers with the highest degree of professionalism, skilled craftsmanship and safety trained insulators the industry has to offer. I am provided with apprentices and journeymen with the most current and state-of-the-art training available.

All Workforce Training Includes:

OSHA 30-Hour Safety Training Courses

NFPA Trained - Hot Works Permitting

Asbestos/Lead Removal and Mediation

Aerial Lift Certification

Firestop Certification

3E Energy Audits

CPR and First Aid Training Courses

Professional Code of Conduct Program

A licensing process will uphold the standards needed to ensure the many benefits of professionally installed mechanical insulation. This benefits the building and its occupants for decades after the insulators have finished the job. Licensing will also allow me to bid more work in Maine which in turn will allow me to employ more Maine residents who will be given greater opportunity to live in their homes and communities with the dignity and respect every Maine worker deserves. The benefits are boundless.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Smedberg
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Oxford, ME 04270