

LOCAL 51

PLUMBERS • PIPEFITTERS • REFRIGERATION

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Anastasia P. Williams
House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island State House – House Lounge
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI

Dear Chairwoman Williams,

I am writing on behalf of UA Local 51 Plumbers and Pipefitters in opposition to H5476, which would create a new limited HVAC service person's license in statute.

Our opposition to creating this class of license is primarily due to overlap with existing licenses. The privileges granted to limited license holders by this proposed law are essentially identical to those of the existing pipefitter level 2 license. While an unmet demand for these services might make a new limited license necessary, we are unaware of any such challenges to meet the demand. In fact, Local 51 has a significant number of highly-skilled and apprentice-licensed plumbers and pipefitters who are more than willing to meet the needs of the construction trades industry.

We believe that the proposal in H5476 would weaken the current HVAC licenses and cause unnecessary contradictions with existing apprenticeship programs. We respectfully oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,



Paul Alvarez
Business Manager
UA Local 51