

Dear Sunset Commission

As Responsible Master Plumber and a second generation plumber I wish to oppose some of the recommendation from the Sunset Commission. I do agree some changes have to be made however I do not agree minimizing or deregulating is the correct approach.

My name is Juan Manuel Lecea Jr. I have been in the plumbing profession since a very young age my father worked for plumbing company and I was fortunate to learn the trade. Upon graduating from High School I attended Saint Phillips College where I further expanded my knowledge of the plumbing trade. I obtained my Journeyman license when I met the requirements I obtained my master plumber license.

Wanting to excel in the trade I obtained my Responsible Master Plumber License. The plumbing trade has been a great profession for me. Currently I teach for Associated Building and Contractors I teach apprenticeship plumbing to adults wanting to expand their knowledge of the plumbing trade .I have been teaching for about eighteen years. I have attended plumbing board meeting ant try to stay informed.

In regards to testing I found the test to be challenging and detained, the test can and does deter unprepared individuated for advancing, Doing away with the hand on portion of the test the roughing in installation of the drain waste and venting system is a critical portion of the test doing away with this section will create health and sanitation issues.

As a small business owner I understand where it can be difficult to meet the supervision demands of TSBPE it can be challenging however knowing the job is done right and supervised by a licensed plumber is a good requirement. On the other hand I know as the RMP if the system fails or someone becomes ill I am responsible. Doing away with the RMP designation license and the supervisory requirements will diminish the responsibility and accountability. Currently only individuals who have worked in the trade have met the requirements and understand the liability peruse the RMP.

The RMP license is achievable to whoever is willing to commit to obeying the Plumbing Rules and Plumbing law.

I understand the financial burden to individuals wanting to get into the plumbing trade it could be misrepresented to be an unacceptable fee. Now if the requirement is four years the individual should be preparing to meet the requirements whatever the fee is divided into four years is still less than a college degree.

In the finding it mentions the apprentice as an individual hired to help dig trenches – not a true statement that is more the day labor the individual who does not have a vested interest in the plumbing trade.

The apprentice license is a stepping stone for individuals with a desire to advance in the plumbing carrier.

As I mentioned some changes need to be made the TSBPE. TSBPE is well respected in the field by licensed plumbers and individuals wanting to be licenses plumbers.

Despite the findings plumbing law awareness has been brought to light thru continuing education. Not sure when the continuing education process started for plumbers but that was a good move. I firmly believe TSBPE will make the needed changes to stay as an independent board.

As a RMP and Apprentice instructor please feel free to contact me for additional information and feedback.

Respectfully

Juan M. Lecea Jr.