



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

February 7, 2017

To: Senators Carlo Leone and Kevin Witkos, Representative David Baram,
Co-Chairs, and Representative Richard Smith, Ranking Member
Members of the General Law Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **Support SB 191, AAC Department of Consumer Protection and
Occupational Licensing**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

The HBRA of CT supports SB 191 and a comprehensive review by the Dept. of Consumer Protection of all its licensing programs. We support the goal of removing any licensing requirements that are no longer necessary or no longer protect the public's health or safety. We also support streamlining those licensing procedures that would remain.

It is a wise practice for any organization to periodically review its practices, procedures and methods. Government should also follow this mantra.

If you, or DCP, decide to not act on this (or any number of other things that have become the "norm"), then you are intentionally deciding to maintain the status quo. Why?

What assumptions do you hold about the status quo than cannot be challenged? Rather than being a champion of the status quo, lay everything out on the table and then become the champion of the best option.

Making a significant change in how Connecticut regulates businesses may be the best option to reinvigorate our state's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.