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My name is Cynthia Maher, and I am representing the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association a 126-year old organization of Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors throughout Michigan.

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to give input on Senate Bill package 963 through 972.

On behalf of our members, we appear today to explain that while we are fully supportive of the concept of standardizing the skilled trades current laws together in order to streamline the Complaints, Investigations, Administrative Procedures, Penalties and Remedies processes, which we agree, would make the enforcement of the Acts themselves more manageable and efficient we must be neutral at this time.

As I indicated in my previous testimony, we are still meeting with both Senator Horn's office and LARA with the assurance there is no intention to change the key policies of the individual Acts which include administration, testing, licensing provisions, prohibited and permitted activities that have made the Acts a very valuable enforcement tool since their inception.

The remaining concerns have to do with some deletions of current law which effectively change the policy in the specific laws. Senator Horn's office has been receptive to other concerns and we feel we can make progress on these remaining items.

An example would be: Which section of the Skilled Trades Act would take precedence when you have conflicting rules? i.e. If in the general rules (Article 1-6) there is a statement of LARA promulgating the minimal standards for a trade but in the specific trade section it says they work with the particular board to promulgate rules, which one would effectively be the enforceable law? Another is the discussion of the doubling of Contractor & Master fees which took effect with the renewal license in 2016. Up until this renewal cycle as the law stated and was followed, an individual who was both the Master licensee and the Contractor licensee for the company only had to pay one fee. This year they were required to pay both fees in order to renew, again if there is a conflict between two sections, which takes precedence? These are a couple examples of where we are currently seeking clarity with Senator Horn's office and LARA.

Again, the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association agrees that streamlining some of these items will be more cost effective and help in the enforcement of these Acts. We look forward to working toward solutions so we could move toward support of these bills.

Again, thank you for your time to allow me to address this bill package.