

Plumbing Board Meeting

Recording Name:

04 Meridian Plumbing 8_12_2021

Transcript Prepared By:



T R A N S C R I P T I O N
O U T S O U R C I N G , L L C

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1 Frost: There you go.

2 Nielson: Thanks. So like we said, we are recording it. So
3 I'll ask that you come up to the podium, state your
4 name, who you're with, what license type you have:
5 journeyman, contractor, apprentice, anything like
6 that. Um, I'd appreciate if we keep the crosstalk
7 down to a minimum. If you have something to say
8 backing up a comment or anything, please wait until
9 the person in front of you has left the podium here
10 and then come on up. And I'll kind of be directing
11 traffic a little bit. But I have a stack of current
12 IDAPA rules in the back, and I don't see anybody
13 holding any of them. But so if you guys will start
14 passing them through, we're going to start off here.

15
16 And yesterday -- so what we have is we have 50
17 amendments to the plumbing code. That's 50 rules plus
18 subsections of some of those rules. So we're probably
19 pushing 70-ish rules that we have just concerning the
20 plumbing code. Going through it yesterday in this
21 sheet I just highlighted in purple ones that I
22 thought, you know, might be good talking points. Any
23 of it's up for grabs. You know, we go anywhere from
24 getting rid of the whole rule itself and that code
25 section to amending it to anything in between.



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So the first one I have -- and it's the first rule is testing the systems. We amended it a while back to allow for you guys to test your own systems if you need be, pull your test, and you know, then you wouldn't have to sit and have your test equipment there while waiting for us to do an inspection. Does anybody got any comments on that as far as getting rid of that section altogether, amending it?

When you go to B, I took that out because A basically says, "A system must be tested and approved in accordance with this code or the authority having jurisdiction. Tests may be conducted in the presence of the AHJ." So what I would like to see as the state as DOPL, you know, we work a little more together not us telling you exactly how to do it but coming up with ways to help you out so that we're not holding you up. You don't have to go back to Garden, uh, Valley to get your test equipment, that sort of thing.

So if anybody's got any comments on that or any of the other ones while you're up here, feel free to speak now.

Ferguson: I'll make a quick comment on that first. My name is



1 Scott Ferguson. Um, I hold a plumbing contractor's
2 license. I think that, uh, it's important that we
3 still have our, um, systems tested by a third party,
4 um, to keep us in line with making sure we don't cut
5 corners. Sometimes we find contractors who bend the
6 rules to make some money, and it doesn't work well for
7 the con- -- cu- -- customer or consumer.

8
9 But I also think to be efficient in the way we conduct
10 business and with modern, um, technologies we can
11 solve that problem together like maybe doing a, a
12 video of the inspection or some photographs of it and
13 then submit it for review at that point so that we
14 don't have to come back to make the test. But we can
15 show by some other form of documentation that, hey, we
16 did it. We did the test. That's all I have to say
17 about that.

18 Nielsen: Anybody else? Just state your name please, sir, and -
19 -

20 Calkins: Yeah.

21 Nielsen: -- for people probably not sure who you are.

22 Calkins: I'm sure not. I'm, uh, Kenny Calkins (ph), and, uh,
23 I'm with, uh, Cloverdale Plumbing. I'm also the
24 president or acting president of the Treasure Valley
25 Master Plumbers Association. I'd have to agree with,



1 uh, with Scott on the testing. I'll give you an
2 example. Years ago when this -- when Albertsons at 5
3 Mile and Overland was in the state I worked with one
4 of the state inspectors because they wanted us to run
5 -- we putting in a new six-inch line underground from
6 the back of the store to the front, and we could only
7 do about 20 or 30 feet a night. And so what we did
8 was we videoed it and then -- and so the inspector
9 didn't have to show up at whatever, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00
10 in the morning, you know, when we had finally got that
11 30-foot laid and, and was able to do that. So, so
12 there is always those things working together with our
13 inspectors to get things done.

14
15 Over the years, uh, I know why John is talking about
16 not always having to do an inspection on a test. Over
17 the years I stood in the board meetings and how many
18 times did they talk about places like Salmon, Idaho,
19 or Grangeville or a lot of these places where they're
20 doing a job. The plumber's up there, he gets up
21 there, does two or three days' worth of work, gets
22 everything under test, but because the state has to be
23 efficient in what they do they just can't show up when
24 we need them. They got to show up when they can get
25 there, so it might be for four days. Next thing you



1 know who knows what happened to your test ball or your
2 test gauge and the test has, has dropped. And, uh,
3 and so you, you go there for the test and well it's a
4 drop. Well now what do we do? You have to go back
5 the next week and redo that again, traveling maybe 100
6 miles one direction. So you can see what the state's
7 dealing with, you know, but, but we also -- it's very
8 important to have a third part, uh, third party person
9 looking at that thing.

10
11 But that's, uh -- originally I cou- -- I, uh, uh,
12 wanted to start off with as, as president of the
13 Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association I wrote
14 something here a while back but, uh, hadn't seen it
15 get out in the email, uh, before today. But, uh, here
16 it says, "The government's goal is to replace
17 regulations, not necessarily eliminate them." This
18 was a couple years ago. I saw the governor at a
19 fundraising event when I first heard about this, and I
20 walked right up to him and I asked him, I asked him
21 pointblank, do you want to get rid of licensings for
22 the trade? And he said no.

23
24 And I should have, uh, I should have said something
25 here during the electrical, uh, uh, meeting this



1 morning, and you know what, plumbers, you know what,
2 we don't got anything on the electricians. They were,
3 they were a lot thicker in here than you guys are.
4 Um, he, he did, he did have an example of an
5 electrician who specialized in windmills and was not
6 able to work in Idaho because he wasn't licensed. And
7 when we talk about life safety here -- and I don't
8 know what the situation was that caused him to have
9 that, have that example. But, but here was a guy that
10 maybe was brought in by somebody to work on a
11 windmill, but yet he was getting pushback from the
12 state about being able to work in here. Okay. And
13 that was the example that he had a couple years ago.

14
15 Um, and then also I wanted to go on here with, uh, it
16 says here I've sat in many plumbing meetings and
17 licensing new residents to the state is the hardest
18 thing that our board has to deal with because -- and I
19 was, I was talking to our plumbers the other day and I
20 said it's almost like what's happening at the border
21 now. You have all these people coming across the
22 border but you got thousands in line waiting and
23 trying to, trying to get their license and follow all
24 these rules, but you had got, got all these people
25 coming around, around the -- uh, you know, around



1 them. And so the state here we struggle.

2
3 How many people here was born in Idaho? Raise your
4 hand. A lot of you weren't. Okay. Moved in, some
5 moved in later. You know, maybe halfway through your
6 career and, and trying to figure out how to get state
7 and that's the hardest thing. That's the hardest
8 thing. So I think that's the thing that we really
9 want to work at. John went through and if we can show
10 him a reduction in, a reduction in a lot of the things
11 that are in our laws or in our code, then that's going
12 to help.

13
14 Uh, Idaho's first plumbing law was mar- -- was signed
15 into, uh, was signed into law March 13th, uh, 1957.
16 There's a picture of that signing in that bookcase
17 right there. And, uh, and at that time our laws were
18 12 pages long. In 2019 they're 51 pages. So as the
19 governor had said one time in a publication everything
20 just keeps growing, rules and regulations just keep
21 growing, so we have to look at our industry and we
22 certainly want to keep our licensing 'cause I know I
23 do. We want to keep our licensing, but we got to just
24 figure out how to minimize those regulations so that
25 we can, we can, uh -- I guess I mentioned this, uh,



1 the- -- maybe this morning with our guys. We all are
2 really happy about not having any regulations when we
3 have to go out and deal in the, in the world, but look
4 out if you come after ours, right. You know what, you
5 know it's a different deal.

6
7 So as you guys are coming up here and talking and
8 gals, uh, coming up here and talking, I just want to,
9 uh, uh -- I appreciate each and every one of you, uh,
10 to, uh, uh, to that. If you are a contractor, if you
11 don't mind me doing a little plug one second.

12 Nielsen: Quick. Two seconds.

13 Calkins: One second. Okay. Uh, March 13th, 1957, uh, Cecil --
14 or, uh, Governor Smylie signed into law, June 16th,
15 1956, first plumbing association in Idaho started, uh,
16 and remember when this vote -- when the -- when this
17 law was passed, 29 of our, uh, house members voted yes
18 but 14 said no plumbing laws, 21 senators voted yes,
19 seven said no plumbing laws, six excused themselves.
20 Okay. So remember, there's never been a 100 percent,
21 uh, agreement that there should even be plumbing laws,
22 so just keep that in mind.

23 Nielsen: Thanks, Kenny. So along those lines, again, we can go
24 through the list here, but if you just looked at what
25 I have in purple, one man's opinion of what could go

1 away. And again, if these rules went away, it reverts
2 back to the text in the code book. So we get rid of
3 rules, but you still have the code book to dictate
4 installations. But if you just went off the purple,
5 this is -- we've got five pages of rules just on code.
6 There's 2,836 words, 50 rules, 20 subsections, a total
7 of 63 restrictive words which is must, may not,
8 required. You get rid of what I have in purple as an
9 example, you're down to 17 -- or -- yes, 1,721 words,
10 um, 37 rules, 11 subsections. So we remove 12 rules,
11 12 subsections, 1,070 words, and 33 restrictive words.
12 That looks good going downtown.

13
14 So as you think about this stuff, you know, keep that
15 in mind. And again, what's in purple is not going to
16 be law. Like Tim said, we're going to be going
17 through the process for the next year and five months,
18 so it's just a suggestion. I do know one of the hot
19 topics when it comes to code -- excuse me -- is
20 cleanouts. Uh, number 35 in your sheet. Would
21 anybody, Stacy, like to comment on cleanouts? Sandy,
22 Stacy, Sandy? Close.

23 Sandy: Sure. I mean, yeah, I can come up here and do it.
24 Why not? So I was actually born in England on an Air
25 Force base but my family is from Idaho so this is my,



1 this is my hometown here. Um, anyway, cleanouts. So
2 when they changed it I was not a big fan of that. I
3 didn't think it was necessary. I felt like the, the
4 system was put together in a way that it didn't
5 facilitate needing more cleanouts or more accessible
6 cleanouts to where they were. I figured if you were a
7 good service plumber, you'd figure it out and not tear
8 up the house to do it, so. Um, that was my, that was
9 my thought on cleanouts.

10
11 So I like the old rule where it's 20 feet away from a
12 crawlspace. Most of these crawlspaces now were 30
13 inches deep. It's pretty easy to get down there if
14 you need to, and a lot of times whatever is down there
15 it's better to just go down there and cut it out than
16 it is to try to snake it anyway, my opinion. But
17 that's, uh, that's my thoughts on cleanouts. I'd like
18 it to go back the way it was, 20 feet away, get them,
19 get them out of the walls and all that. Thank you.

20 Nielsen: Thank you. Anybody else?

21 Bennett: I forgotten your first name.

22 Sandy: Sandy.

23 Bennett: Sandy.

24 Sandy: Stacy.

25 Bennett: Sandy, Sandy. Okay. Um, I agree with Sandy. Now

1 most of you know what I do for a living now. Last
2 eight years or seven years I've been at CWI, but, uh,
3 before that I was, uh, 10 years with a service
4 business. Uh, I never failed to clean something out
5 and we didn't -- I didn't have these cleanout rules.
6 I just -- when it, when it passed I was like why are
7 they doing this? Because a, a good plumber and you
8 know what, there's dozens of them in here, probably
9 all of you are good plumbers but a good plumber can
10 clean anything out at some -- you know, eventually.
11 Now sometimes it might be a little harder than other
12 times. So I do agree with you.

13
14 There was on section in here where John has in purple
15 that I kind of disagree with. I disagree with it
16 being in purple. Um, number 39 where it talks about
17 the four-inch sewer, minimum five. Um, that should
18 stay four-inch. Um, it should stay in there. Uh, the
19 State of Washington has three-inch -- allows three-
20 inch sewer lines and, and their cleanout people and,
21 you know -- anyway, they have problems with those
22 sewer lines.

23 Nielsen: But Steve --

24 Bennett: What's that?

25 Nielsen: -- if I may?

1 Bennett: Yes, sir.

2 Nielsen: So as we look at this, how does that relate to life
3 safety and cost benefit?

4 Bennett: How does it, how does it relate to safety? Okay. Uh,
5 it doesn't stop up as quickly, and so it actually will
6 save, save the homeowner money in terms of, you know,
7 having their lines cleaned out. You know, a three, a
8 three-inch sewer line will plug up faster than a four-
9 inch sewer line. Um, in my memory -- and it goes back
10 a long ways -- I started plumbing in the mid-
11 seventies. Um, Idaho has always had four-inch sewer
12 lines and some places even mandated -- the town I was
13 in that mandated cleanouts, uh, which was way ahead of
14 their time by the way. But, uh, that, um, that four-
15 inch line, sewer line have saved our bacon in many
16 cases, so.

17 Nielsen: All right.

18 Bennett: That's all.

19 Nielsen: Anybody else? Come on up.

20 Simons: I'm JP of Simons & Simons Plumbing, plumbing
21 contractor. Um, I go -- I'm in agreement with both of
22 them as far as the removing the cleanouts. Uh, if
23 you're, if you're good at what you do, you're going to
24 pull a fixture to, to find the problem 'cause that's
25 where the problem is and having cleanouts in -- having

1 to put cleanouts above the floor in the wall of a
2 high-end house is just ridiculous. But, um, also on -
3 - huh? What's that? Hear, hear. Yeah, I agree.

4
5 And then 39 where, uh, you have a two-and-a-half bath
6 house and somebody comes back and remodels later to
7 add a fourth bathroom to it, that's what's way too
8 much on a three-inch, uh, sewer line. And you know,
9 it's -- we're just asking for trouble. And then, you
10 know, the public safety of that is sewage backup into
11 a house. You have bacteria and so forth like that, so
12 you're putting people's lives at stake by having a
13 chance for more stoppages. Just my thought.

14 Nielsen: All right. Thank you. Anybody else on cleanouts or
15 any other code item?

16 Male 1: Can I just say I agree with the backup thing? If
17 you're a service plumber, people will keep using that
18 toilet. So that's spot on.

19 Nielsen: All right. But I am -- you know, I'm not here to
20 argue the point or anything like that, but just so you
21 know, I sit on the technical committee for the Uniform
22 Plumbing Code. In 2021 anybody using the plumbing
23 code without amending it can put five water closets on
24 a three-inch sewer horizontal. In 2024 they're
25 looking at going to six water closets. So the rest of

1 the country, the world -- it's an international -- not
2 international plumbing code but, you know, it's
3 adopted throughout the world, they're looking at that.
4 So again, as we look at this between life safety, cost
5 benefits, anything else --

6 Male 2: Is that building sewer coming in is three-inch?

7 Nielsen: Yes. They -- the plumbing code does -- Idaho code
8 dictates four-inch coming in, not the Uniform Plumbing
9 Code, so. Just something to chew on.

10 Frost: Question on that. You said that on the technical side
11 UPC is going to say you can now put six toilets on a
12 three-inch line.

13 Nielsen: They are going towards that in the 2024 Uniform
14 Plumbing Code. Anybody got any comments on their
15 admittance valves?

16 Bloom: I just -- I had a question for you. The only, the
17 only thing that you want us to address -- so my name
18 is Cameron Bloom. I work for Optimum Plumbing and I
19 can stand up there and ask.

20 Nielsen: If you would please.

21 Bloom: I can. So my name is Cameron Bloom. I work for
22 Optimum Plumbing. I'm a journeyman plumber. Um, I've
23 been for a couple years now, so I'm fairly new to this
24 trade. And I'm from another country, and I had to go
25 through school and do all that. And I know my code

1 okay I hope. But the only thing that you're wanting
2 to address is the health and safety of people for
3 these rules, correct?

4 Nielsen: I want you to take into consideration that.

5 Bloom: Okay. Well I just, um -- not knowing every single
6 reason for why these rules were made, I can't say what
7 we're preventing a lot of the time, but I can tell you
8 that I know we're losing two senior plumbers for every
9 person like me that's coming into the field. And
10 these rules give me something to work with. If I
11 can't ask somebody else why or what's available, these
12 rules can be at least a guidebook, a blueprint to say
13 this is available to say I'm not going to screw
14 somebody's life up by plumbing it wrong. And that's
15 something that a lot of young plumbers are going to
16 deal with as we watch people age out of this trade.

17 Nielsen: Thank you. Anybody?

18 Taylor: Uh, Ben Taylor, Taylor Made Plumbing, um, commercial
19 plumbers license or plumbing license, so. Um, just
20 one question. Uh, are there any other plumbing
21 documents that we have that are going to be looked at
22 other than these pages as far as getting stuff removed
23 or --

24 Nielsen: Yes.

25 Taylor: There is.

1 Nielsen: Yes.

2 Taylor: What are they?

3 Nielsen: The whole IDAPA rule book.

4 Taylor: Okay. How come we're only looking at this one?

5 Nielsen: One at a time.

6 Taylor: Okay. There we go. All right. So, um, for number
7 three, I'm okay deleting that. Excavations, I think
8 that's, um, acceptable. Um, I think the, the
9 inspectors definitely keep on top of this. There's so
10 many different types of material in this valley and
11 throughout the state that every situation is
12 different. We don't want pipes settling. We don't
13 want pipe breaking with rocks. But do we need to
14 spell out every single one? I don't think so. Um,
15 the transient public lavatories, number six, I'm okay
16 deleting that.

17
18 Uh, number 13, um, as far as I'm aware -- and feel
19 free to correct me -- I don't think there's any water
20 heaters that do need to go on 18-inch stands anymore,
21 correct? Aren't they all already with the, uh, flue
22 piping? So maybe we can delete 13 without having any
23 problems there. Uh, number 19, the tracer wire, that
24 doesn't affect me. I'd say delete it but maybe
25 somebody needs to stand up for that one. Um, maybe

1 that's people who run well piping and stuff. That
2 seems like an easy one to go.

3
4 Um, mechanical joints, number 20, uh, just I don't
5 know exactly what replaces that if we delete it. I, I
6 kind of like that one in there, but I'm not sure what
7 it -- what we are left with if we delete number 20.
8 Um, number 21, I'm okay deleting that. Um, number 30,
9 if we delete number 30 with the, uh, uh, two-inch pipe
10 under the concrete, what are we left with? 'Cause I
11 come from a, a service background and between, uh,
12 number 30 and then the four-inch minimum sewer pipe
13 going into a building, which is number 39, um, I'm not
14 re- -- I don't remember exactly what the code says on
15 those if we delete them, but I do know that getting a
16 piece of equipment in to clean something, two-inch
17 under a piece of concrete is pretty minimal. If you
18 have less than two-inch, then I'm not sure what we're
19 left with. You probably won't be able to get into
20 that pipe very well.

21
22 Um, 44-A, I'm definitely okay with deleting that. Uh,
23 46-A, I'd be okay deleting that. I think that A these
24 would be okay in commercial, um, definitely up for
25 debate on that. But I, I could see some uses for that

1 in specific cases, maybe with approval by an AHJ. Um,
2 that might be an easy one to just remove from the
3 list. Uh, 48 I'm okay deleting that, and 49 okay with
4 deleting that also, so.

5 Nielsen: All right. Thank you. Anyone else on the code topics
6 or plumbing code topics? And again, this is just me
7 sitting in the office yesterday trying to figure out
8 what's going to get people talking, and I appreciate
9 the input on it. So to your point, we can move on
10 unless somebody had -- last call on code items.

11
12 All right. So one of the other topics that comes up
13 every now and then is the residential permit fee
14 schedule. Currently it is square footage. Um, is
15 there anybody that has any -- do you like it? Would
16 you like to see it changed? Anything along those
17 lines? My personal opinion is I hate the multifamily
18 part there. That should be a commercial job, you
19 know, and you put it under one permit and go that
20 route instead of having 12 cross-reference permits.
21 But does anybody feel the need to change the
22 residential permit fee schedule? And if you want, you
23 can -- we can charge you more too. That's up for
24 grabs.

25 Josh: I was going to say that and keep, uh -- so my name is

1 Josh. I'm a contractor of Advance Plumbing. Uh, I
2 think that they need to, uh, go back to the format
3 that it just has to do with permitting but it's not at
4 the, the fees. But the way that DBS has it set up to
5 pull permits and all that, the rest of the cities need
6 to get back on board because the way they have it now,
7 dude, it's a crash. It's like you got to like -- some
8 cities you got to send -- uh, get the permit, wait for
9 them to email you back. I can't start. The lady says
10 oh it's all online. I go on there. Okay. So I
11 leave. It, it just -- like four hours later for one
12 permit, and it's just a continuous like snowball. It
13 just continues to -- it just gets more and more
14 difficult. There's more people's hands in on it,
15 where the DBS, the way it's set up, go in, you get
16 your permit, you pay, you get your inspection. That
17 was the most simplest way I've ever seen it done.
18 These other -- and like these would be -- I think it
19 needs to be, um, uniform across the board as far as
20 everybody. I think the adaptation of everybody doing
21 their own thing I, I, I don't, I don't like it.

22 Nielsen: So to follow up on that, what you may or may not be
23 suggesting is one place, you know --

24 Josh: It's the same --

25 Nielsen: -- either the state or the, you know -- do you break

1 it down to the lowest level or would you rather see
2 the state and DOPL kind of --

3 Josh: I'd like to see the state just -- it ran like the
4 state -- like the DBS, it's just that, that website is
5 real easy to go through. I mean it's, it's usual
6 friendly, plumber friendly, you know, where the other
7 ones it's like holy smokes, man. I've gotten -- I've
8 thrown my phone at the wall a few times because I was
9 just like, dude, this is bullshit.

10

11 But, uh, and then as far as the fees go, you know, the
12 fees are what the fees are, whatever it takes to --
13 you know, I mean it's just part of doing business.
14 So, um, I don't really like the square footage either.
15 I'd rather it be per fixture I mean 'cause same thing,
16 it's just uniform. You know you got this many
17 fixtures. It's this price. You already know what
18 you're paying. But when you start throwing in the
19 square footage, I mean you could have like a whole
20 part of the house that has nothing to do with the
21 plumbing, nothing to what you're doing and you're
22 still paying for that. I, I just don't -- I think
23 that like throws an extra burden on the contractor, so
24 I'd like to see that changed.

25 Nielsen: All right. Thanks.

1 Josh: Thank you.

2 Nielsen: Anybody else? Dennis, are you coming up?

3 Holty: Yeah, I'm afraid so. I just want to (inaudible -
4 00:27:41) because of what I am. Dennis Holty (ph),
5 DMH Enterprises. We inspect for -- we're already in
6 Eagle, Star, Middleton, and (inaudible - 00:27:58).
7 So I just wanted to make the comment that to help him
8 understand that each one of these jurisdictions has
9 their own computer system. We have no control over
10 it. They all have their own IT department, their own
11 computer systems. So making your life miserable is
12 probably never going to change.

13 Josh: They were communicating though (inaudible - 00:28:25)
14 ones that are out there, so.

15 Holty: Some are easier than others.

16 Josh: Yeah.

17 Holty: And some are not. And then they get new employees
18 that they're learning trying to teach you when they
19 don't know how. So I just want to mention that.

20 Nielsen: Okay.

21 Holty: And, uh, I agree with the multifamily. It should be a
22 commercial permit.

23 Nielsen: Thanks, Dennis. Anybody else have a different idea?
24 Come on up, Mike.

25 Josh: I have a whole other thing to say about that. Joshua

1 with Advance Plumbing, contractor. The other thing
2 too is so I got to -- uh, I'd like to see on these
3 websites who has jurisdiction over what 'cause we got
4 -- we're on a remodel where the plumbing is -- uh, so
5 we went through Meridian, the house is in Meridian
6 City, but it has to be inspected by the DBS. So I got
7 burned on that permit. Then you go through and then
8 when we did some gas and then I -- so I pulled my
9 permit through the DBS, he shows up, gives me a card
10 and goes oh no this is under Ada County. So you got
11 one house in three different jurisdictions and I'd
12 like to see on the web -- and I'm not saying that the
13 IT people ore the city, this and that -- I just think
14 they all need to get one page, make one system, make
15 it easy, actually user friendly 'cause they --
16 everybody says oh it's going to be easier. For who?
17 For the guy that created it in his garage. Okay. So
18 I'd like to see some uniformity there.

19
20 And then also I'd like to see that when you're pulling
21 these permits it should -- the -- it should tell you
22 if you're pulling it in the right spot or not, you
23 know, 'cause I asked the inspector. I'm like well how
24 do you figure it out? Dude, he gave me about a 15-
25 minute spiel which was cool 'cause he was helping me.



1 I appreciated that. But the way he was saying to do
2 it it was just calling more people, getting on the
3 phone, doing this, doing that. You know what. If it
4 was really -- if they're really going to streamline
5 it, like I said, the DBS one I found is the best one.
6 I am a big fan of DBS. I'm sad -- uh, I'm really sad
7 that it went. I hope that one day we get to see it
8 back maybe.

9 Nielsen: We're still here.

10 Josh: Yeah, but -- yeah, DBS. But, uh, I would like to see
11 -- I mean it's kind of like a free-for-all out there,
12 you know. Like, you know, Dennis had Star. Dude, the
13 worst ones, it's like I said, you got to like pull
14 your permit. You got to wait for a response back.
15 Then you're -- it's like Caldwell too. I feel like
16 we're going through like, uh, like NORAD or something.
17 You got to go through one security door to get to the
18 next one, and it's like you're getting verified and
19 checked out. It's crazy. What, what is up with that?

20
21 It should be, it should be something that, you know,
22 as the contractor I mean we're already under a lot of
23 pressure. We're trying to get things done, do things
24 right. But when you got like all this, uh -- it's
25 like you're getting a lot of pushback when it just



1 comes to that, and I'd like to see some changes.

2 Nielsen: All right. Thanks, Josh.

3 Josh: Okay.

4 Robinson: Uh, Jerry Robinson with Treasure Valley Plumbing. I'm
5 a plumbing contractor. I was going to ask, John,
6 maybe you can explain a little bit how that -- like
7 how that came about that each city had their own
8 jurisdictions and why that happened, like why it did
9 what it did. And then I also agree with the cleanout
10 thing too. Just I'd like to say that they don't --
11 they need to be -- that needs to be changed. Um, I'd
12 like to see -- I'd like a show of hands how many guys
13 went in the crawlspace and took the cleanout off when
14 it's plugged up and, and did it. I would say zero,
15 right, 'cause you know where that's coming out at,
16 right.

17 Male 1: (Inaudible - 00:32:01) when I was young.

18 Polum: Takes me a while to get up here, you know. Uh, Troy
19 Polum (ph) with, uh, Optimum Plumbing. Um, I had two
20 comments about, uh, apartments being commercial. I
21 disagree with that. It's 12 houses stacked on top of
22 each other. Also the -- it's not that I'm really
23 against backflow devices with -- I think they're
24 important but we're not in -- in the apartments we
25 have some place to sit we can do double checks, some

1 RPs. I don't -- and some say no. And so every time
2 we start on a complex we're asking what do we need
3 here, depend on the city, state. I don't think we
4 should need a backflow because we're not cooking like
5 -- it's not restaurant we're serving; it's houses. So
6 I think it should be residential and treated like
7 residential, not in between that aspect. That's my
8 opinion on that.

9

10 And then when it comes to, um, cleanouts, I'm fine
11 with having full size cleanouts where they need to be.
12 But we ran into situations where we're doing the
13 horizontal wet vent system and everyone knows it's not
14 always straight perfect like everyone wants to have it
15 in one line so you have to go over, back. And we
16 exceed the number of turns you can have, so we're
17 having some inspectors say we need to put a second
18 cleanout in line along with the most upstream
19 cleanout. I think that's kind of crazy. We have a
20 cleanout at the end of the upstream. We should be
21 done with just one and not have to add three because
22 we've had to make two turns.

23 Nielsen: Thanks.

24 Polum: That's what I got.

25 Nielsen: Thanks. To a- -- I want to answer his question real

1 quick why cities can do their own inspections is
2 because statutorily they can. When it comes to
3 electrical and plumbing, counties don't have an
4 option. We do the counties. Cities, if they want to
5 stand up a program, they have to do it by ordinance,
6 and as you know with Dennis, the city can go third
7 party, do their own, uh, program, whichever way. So
8 that's why there is the differences. HVAC, it's city,
9 county, you know, pretty much anybody. If they can
10 make a buck off HVAC, they're standing up a program.
11 So that's why. CJ, did you have something?

12 CJ: (Inaudible - 00:34:33). Uh, CJ (inaudible - 00:34:33)
13 DMH Enterprise, one of the plumbing inspectors. So
14 just like John said, every city, man, they might have
15 got a deal on eye works. You know, if you hook up
16 that month so they went through that training. They
17 got that. Well we deal with five different, you know,
18 computer systems just like you guys. So it's each
19 city that comes up with what they want to do, what the
20 program they're using, you know. We get complaints
21 all the time that they all suck. Sometimes they do,
22 sometimes they don't. Um, I think it's -- if you're
23 going to -- if that's an issue, you'll have to address
24 those cities, you know. If they have a meeting of
25 where their money is going, maybe say, hey, is there



1 any way we can do this, do that, make them come to an
2 agreement of something. But, um, I think that's about
3 it on that one.

4
5 Cleanouts, yeah. Some guys are too lazy to drill one
6 more hole, so they have 560 degrees in their
7 horizontal wet vent. The end of the line like Troy --
8 I mean that's the one they're going to use. They're
9 going to pull a toilet. They're going to this.
10 They're going to that. I get that one. I wish the
11 builders would put a two by six wall in so you guys
12 could put, you know, a three-inch up there and be
13 done. Drywaller buries them most of the time anyway.
14 So, uh, the 20-foot, if they would put crawl accesses
15 next to each bathroom, you guys, you know, it's way
16 over there having to crawl all the way over to do a --
17 you know, talk to your builders. Have them, you know,
18 make it easier on you guys too. Each builder oh I
19 don't want to pay for it. What \$20? I mean what the
20 heck is a framer charging for that?

21
22 So, um, the backflows, so each city's water department
23 is who takes care of what -- if they want an RP, if
24 they want a, uh, double check, um, it's different, uh,
25 levels, you know. If, if like a coffee machine backs

1 up, sucks back in it, well that's different than, you
2 know, the entire building sucking back a soda machine
3 at a bar. Uh, Meridian's going around and making a
4 lot of buildings put in the RPs which puts you guys in
5 a bad spot 'cause then you got to figure out where to
6 run the drain and then we get a phone call, hey, can
7 we do this, can we do that? And it's -- well try and
8 work with you guys too about, you know, what's what,
9 but we only inspect what, you know, they tell us to.
10 That they take care of the double check outside and
11 from the building foundation in is out.

12
13 So, uh, a lot of these little, little problems are,
14 are just -- I don't know how we're going to change
15 some of them. Um, a lot of them have nothing to do
16 with us anymore too. So I think when it comes down
17 time for that we'll just have to have a big list of
18 the 71s that they're going to want to change, and we
19 can all look at it and see what works and, you know,
20 like John did here. This is just a beginning of
21 everything. So I think when they get more information
22 we'll get more information and we'll try, you know,
23 whatever we can to help you guys out too 'cause we get
24 a well we don't do it here, they don't do it here. I
25 know.

1 Nielsen: All right.

2 CJ: But that's it. Thanks.

3 Nielsen: So are you --

4 Female: No. Sorry. Go on.

5 (Crosstalk)

6 Nielsen: Sorry. So is it -- one more call on permits, and
7 again, if you got something on permitting, let's talk
8 permitting, not trying to defend each jurisdiction
9 system and what they're trying to do. We'll be here
10 for hours. All right. Currently we're going to go to
11 apprentice registration. So current rule requires an
12 apprentice to be supervised under constant on-the-job
13 supervision of a journeyman. You know, what's the
14 cost benefit of this and is it directed -- is it
15 connected directly with life safety?

16
17 You've got -- we're in the middle. You got HVAC that
18 does not have direct supervision. You got electrical
19 that's 1:1 ratio or 1:4 depending on what you're
20 doing. Does anybody got any comments on direct
21 supervision? Do we need ratios? Do we need to go
22 like HVAC? You know, modern technology, we got
23 phones. We can get where we need to be. We got
24 videos. Any opinions? Darcy, I mean she couldn't
25 resist.

1 Nydi: Darcy Nydi (ph) with Devos Plumbing (ph). Um, as I
2 was looking at this and looking at the new, um,
3 requirements and what our neighboring states do, um,
4 Washington requires supervision 75 percent of the
5 time, Oregon allows for a phased supervision, and Utah
6 requirements an immediate supervision which means that
7 you're available via a phone or video conferencing or
8 15 minutes from the job site. Um, I came across the
9 words close supervision and found a definition that
10 says "indicates that the incumbent is assigned duties
11 according to specific procedures, work is checked
12 frequently, and in addition, there may be formal
13 training." I do think that there are cases where
14 third and fourth year apprentices have the ability to
15 work independent, um, with somebody checking their
16 work.

17 Nielsen: Thank you.

18 Knickerbocker: I'm Gabriel Knickerbocker. Um, I think that
19 ultimately the journeyman is responsible for the work,
20 um, and if the, if the apprentice is good enough at
21 their job -- I mean 'cause I don't think, I don't
22 think that it takes four years for an apprentice to be
23 good at their job and to be able to handle the, the,
24 the, the every single job.

25



1 I mean there, there are jobs when the journeyman needs
2 to be, uh, there, but I don't think that every single
3 time there needs to be a journeyman to change out a
4 toilet or, or a sink or something. If the, if the,
5 the apprentice has experience and they're capable,
6 then, um, allowing for -- having a journeyman close
7 within a half hour or something like that 'cause it
8 is, uh, simple to do over the phone, uh, stuff. And
9 then having, having a journeyman checking on it. And
10 then when the permit's -- when the inspection is
11 called in then the journeyman is responsible for that,
12 so if the journeyman's not comfortable with that
13 apprentice doing the work, then obviously he's not
14 going to let him do to that, so.

15 Nielsen: Thank you.

16 Watson: Sandy Watson, S&K Plumbing, contractor. Yeah, this is
17 a tough one, guys, because, uh, there is an issue out
18 there 'cause we've got, we've got -- we've just got to
19 find guys that know what they're doing. That's the
20 biggest thing. Um, I've had plenty of journeymen that
21 I've hired that my apprentices are teaching them how
22 to do it, and they don't last. They're gone. And
23 it's like how did you get your card, you know? And
24 then, um, and then I've had lots of times where I've
25 had apprentices on the job that know everything a



1 journeyman does. In fact I've got one now he's been
2 with, with me for five years. He started from
3 scratch. And he's been running his own jobs for
4 several years now, and he's finally got his
5 journeyman's card. He's so proud, so happy, and I
6 hope it's still worth something soon for him 'cause
7 this kid, he worked hard to get there.

8
9 So yeah, there's an issue out there, and it's just
10 getting guys trained. And then there's, uh,
11 apprentices out there that, that have only been doing
12 water lines for two years straight and never got to do
13 anything else, you know, and that's not DBS's fault or
14 anything else. It's just, it's just us training these
15 guys to make sure that when they are a journeyman
16 they're well-rounded. Do they know everything? No.
17 But they have to have experience in everything and
18 that's going to be our responsibility to teach these
19 guys how to do it. But yeah, we need to do something
20 to make sure these guys are trained up right, that
21 they are supervised properly, and just because you
22 have a journeyman on the job doesn't mean it's getting
23 done right.

24 Nielsen: Thanks, Sandy.

25 Watson: Yeah.

1 Nielsen: Anybody else?

2 Calkins: Kenny Calkins again with Cloverdale Plumbing. I've
3 changed my attitude about supervision over the years.
4 I remember one time there's a gentleman in the red
5 shirt over there and said if you want to go anywhere
6 and really learn how to, how to be a plumber, a good
7 plumber you go to Cloverdale. Thank you for that,
8 Eddie, because we always had a very high journeyman-
9 to-apprenticeship ratio, always did over the years.
10 You guys ever -- you guys been listening to my ad on
11 the radio, you know. I mean there's not a plumber in
12 this valley, there's not an HVAC company and not an
13 electrician that's not looking for people. I sit in
14 these meetings this mornings and heard it all.

15
16 I got two guys over here I just told them a minute ago
17 I'm going to throw them under the bus. They hurried
18 up -- I hope they didn't hurry too much, but they were
19 doing a, they were doing a house re-pipe. Okay.
20 Taking out whatever kind of material, putting in new
21 material, right. Neither one of them hold a
22 journeyman license. One's been here at Cloverdale
23 longer than the other one. They're working together.
24 If you don't think I should be able to do that, what
25 journeyman out here wants to go finish that job for

1 me? Oh, okay. Never mind. But, but you know what,
2 they're going to be held account- -- they're going to
3 be held accountable for their work, if they miss a
4 crimp. Like he said, they hurried to get here. I'm
5 just thinking okay I hope they didn't miss a crimp,
6 right? Or you know, but I have a lot of respect for
7 those young men. You know what, and they want to do a
8 good job. And you know what, they work a lot of days.

9
10 They're working on the right -- they're sitting in the
11 right seat in the van with a guy on a -- with the
12 license on the left who's got a lot more experience.
13 I've got one guy who's been with me 27 years. You
14 know what, they always call him, you know, and ask him
15 their opinion and stuff. So we're doing what we've
16 got to do in this day and age to get people out to
17 take care of our customers.

18
19 And so, so I have changed my mind. I don't think we
20 need to constant on-the-job supervision. On, on
21 certain jobs there's a guy right back there, you know
22 what, there are jobs that I know he's been working on
23 the last few years I wouldn't put just an apprentice
24 on it. Tom, you know what I'm talking about, you
25 know. So anyway, um, there's certain jobs I would



1 never put an apprentice on by himself, and there are
2 certain jobs maybe we need to look at and say, you
3 know what, this is it.

4
5 And John, you told -- you threatened to give me a fine
6 a few years ago, and I said go ahead because, you know
7 what, if I don't take care of them jobs, the handyman
8 is going to do it.

9 Nielsen: And Kenny, um, let me ask you a question. So along
10 those lines, you know, maybe this job we need one,
11 maybe that job we don't. Is that something DOPL
12 should regulate or should that be industry's call, you
13 know, as a contractor? Should you guys know who to
14 put on a job and who not to and how to man it up? So
15 my question is --

16 Male 2: Once again, it's going to go back to the contractor.
17 They're --

18 (Crosstalk)

19 Calkins: Okay. Okay. Listen, you want to, you want to, you
20 want to get rid of something. Let's get rid of the
21 words constant on-the-job supervision and let's change
22 it out for some other wording of some sort of
23 supervision. That's getting rid of it or maybe just
24 get rid of it, you know, and an apprentice has to work
25 for a contractor that has a journeyman, that has a

1 journeyman there working. I don't know. You know,
2 so, you know, that's why -- you know, we all don't
3 know how to rewrite this stuff. That's why we went
4 from nine pages to 51 or 12 pages to 51 because every
5 year we try to fix a problem, and it just adds another
6 page to the regulations. So anyway.

7 Nielsen: All right. Thanks, Kenny. Come up please.

8 Bloom: Yes. So Cameron Bloom again. Um, I just want to say
9 right now I'm running a job for, uh, a company. I've
10 been doing it for a while now where I, I build
11 apartments, and there are times where I just can't be
12 on the job or I have to run and pick up a part or go
13 and do something at another location and I have to be
14 off the job when apprentices are working. And that's
15 just the way it is, and I don't know too many
16 companies that can have a journeyman there every
17 second. The other day on the job we had an
18 electrician come down to talk to an inspector and the
19 inspector went and gave him what-for because he had
20 left an apprentice alone on the third floor of the
21 apartments working.

22
23 Now so much of this stuff is interpreted by
24 inspectors, and some of them are great. You know,
25 when you guys are, are fighting for public safety and



1 for our jobs and trying to make sure everybody's doing
2 things that are good and right, that's awesome. And
3 when you guys who want to go ahead and put it down,
4 you really can. And man, interpretation plays such a
5 huge part. So I think that you have to be plain in
6 your language, and I think that it should be cellphone
7 that a journeyman's available and that's it. And I
8 think that that's viable. And if anybody else feels
9 the same way, I think that they should go ahead and
10 say.

11 Nielsen: Thank you. You come to throw your boss under the bus?

12 Keys: My name is Josh Keys (ph), apprentice plumber,
13 Cloverdale Plumbing. I think that, uh, the close
14 supervision with the cellphone or some kind of
15 communication is the only way to go. We don't have
16 enough journeymen in the industry at all for every
17 single apprentice to always be supervised 100 percent
18 of the time. There's no way we'll be able to get the
19 valley taken care of. There's no way we'll be able to
20 build up the houses if every single apprentice has to
21 have some kind of journeyman always watching
22 everything we do.

23
24 If the accountability always goes back to the company
25 that holds the contracting license, that holds the



1 journeyman's licenses, the company is still
2 accountable for what that apprentice is always doing,
3 and as long as we can make sure we're still doing our
4 jobs the way we need to do them per the code, per the
5 way the regulations say, I don't think there needs to
6 be a journeyman on site of every single job or
7 location always watching over every single apprentice
8 'cause we just -- we don't have the manpower.

9
10 A lot of you guys are going to age out here. Then
11 what are we going to do? We don't have -- you know,
12 we don't have the manpower to do that unfortunately.
13 So we got to figure out a new way to regulate it so
14 we're still getting quality work done, still getting
15 customers taken care of, but we're able to get that
16 work done in a timely fashion, so.

17 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

18 Keys: Yeah.

19 Simons: I have one final. Um, I was just thinking -- JP
20 Simons, Simons & Simons Plumbing, plumbing contractor.
21 I just -- uh, if we could do a year-to-year practical
22 to where first year, second year, third year, fourth
23 year there's a practical so that they know that --
24 they know what they're doing. Then we could do away
25 with that having to have a journeyman on site 'cause



1 then we know, everybody knows there's a standard as to
2 what this guy should know and shouldn't know. And we
3 got a lot of guys that do residential, a lot of guys
4 do commercial. There are commercial and/or service
5 work, and these are all different fields. And so to
6 have a practical of some kind to where each, each year
7 they have to meet a standard then I think that would
8 be a way to do away with having to have a journeyman
9 on each one.

10 Nielsen: All right, JP. But I'm going to ask you --

11 Simons: No.

12 Nielsen: -- kind of the same question.

13 Simons: Yeah. That's adding to --

14 Nielsen: Isn't that -- you know, isn't that something the
15 contractors -- you -- don't you want to regulate that
16 yourself or do you want DOPL to regulate a practical?
17 'Cause again, you know, and we don't need to write
18 code on the floor here, but say we do, you know, get
19 rid of constant on the job, again, Kenny, everybody
20 else all knows who they can and can't put on the job
21 by themselves.

22 Simons: Right.

23 Nielsen: So you know, again --

24 Simons: That's true.

25 Nielsen: -- do we need to add another level of regulation?

1 Simons: And maybe that me -- maybe that doesn't come from your
2 jurisdiction but maybe in the instruction part, uh,
3 where when they go through each year of instruction
4 they have to pass a practical of some sort.

5 Nielsen: Okay.

6 Simons: That's just a thought.

7 Nielsen: Nope, no. I appreciate that.

8 Simons: Just a thought.

9 Williams: Uh, Derek Williams. I hold a journeyman's and a
10 public work's license. I've got a Bachelor's in
11 Business. I've been in the industry about 20 years.
12 I work for a company with 50 plus plumbers.
13 Everything you say about journeyman-to-apprentice
14 ratio is just eliminating the journeyman altogether
15 because if you don't have to have a journeyman on
16 site, you only have to have one in the office, that
17 one in the office could supervise 50 apprentices on --
18 and I mean we do everything from houses on up to
19 multiunit, and you're telling me what good's a
20 journeyman anymore.

21 Nielsen: Thanks, Derek.

22 Burton: My name's Glen Burton. I'm a journeyman plumber. Um,
23 I work for the Best Plumbing. I started out as an
24 apprentice in '93 here in Idaho. I went through the
25 state-sponsored apprenticeship program, and I was



1 working as an apprentice brand new for a little mom
2 and pop residential shop. And to be honest, we were
3 sent out with no supervision. We learned from school
4 and we learned from experience what worked and what
5 didn't by whether or not we passed inspection. It was
6 a hard way to learn. Having a journeyman there to
7 help teach and give an experience is important to the
8 apprentices so that we can learn to do it right.

9
10 I think one of the key components that we need to make
11 sure that we keep in this state is the apprenticeship
12 program so that we have apprentices that are being
13 taught the code, being taught how they need to put
14 things together to go along with the on-the-job
15 training. Did I need 100 percent supervision on the
16 job? No. But there were a lot of times I could have
17 used it.

18
19 So I think that if we look at what is the scope of the
20 project, is it a simple re-pipe, is it a residential
21 house project, is it a nine-story commercial building,
22 there's going to be different levels of supervision
23 that are needed for that. How exactly we implement
24 that I don't know. But there needs to be some
25 supervision but not necessarily 100 percent.



1 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

2 Burton: Yeah.

3 Nielsen: Sir, your name please.

4 Josh: My name is Josh. I'm a contractor with Advance
5 Plumbing. So when it comes to working on a job
6 without a journeyman I'd probably ride -- probably
7 rode the most dirtiest in this room. Uh, you know,
8 I've plumbed a lot of big custom homes, but I can say
9 this. Uh, I thought I was the -- I thought I knew
10 everything, you know. I was a hot apprentice. You
11 know, I could do -- uh, plumb a whole house, run a
12 crew, do all those things. Uh, but one thing I
13 learned was that there's nothing like the experience
14 of a journeyman on the job. This guy right here, Bo,
15 he stopped me. I worked for him. He taught me a lot
16 of stuff, stuff that's made me a lot of money in my
17 career. I passed it on to my guys.

18
19 Um, you know, a few months ago I had a guy that was
20 working with me. He was a, he was a fourth year. He
21 took his, uh, written test, passed it. He was just
22 waiting on the practical. We were going through
23 Covid. Left him on a job with somebody. They wrote
24 us up, and it's like, dude, but he's already passed
25 the hardest part. The practical he's going to do it



1 in the lab. It's already put together for it. You
2 just got to go in and say you did it. But, uh --

3 (Crosstalk)

4 Josh: Well you can have a missed crimp. But, uh, I think I,
5 you know, I get it. Having no journeyman on the job,
6 man, that would fatten my pockets. I would, I would -
7 - I'd become wealthy overnight 'cause I could find --
8 I could scratch together a bunch of crews. But the
9 thing is when we're talking about public safety and
10 we're talking about the, the dollar that falls on the,
11 you know, the general contractor and the homeowner,
12 we're playing with fire 'cause it doesn't matter.

13

14 I mean I've done things that later on I see it, and
15 I'm like God why did I do it like that. And I'll fix
16 it because it itches in your brain and you're like I
17 can't leave it like that. Now when you leave guys
18 that don't have that experience and you leave them to
19 their own, uh, uh, to their own thoughts, you know,
20 I've, I've, I've been to Seattle, went to Seattle and
21 worked there for a while during Covid, you know,
22 scratching money together. You know, I seen a guy,
23 uh, he was a plumber. He was, uh, a third year. Went
24 up over the HVAC and then came back down with a hump
25 in the pipe, and I was like great, dude. That's going



1 to work real well, you know. I just, uh, I'm, I'm
2 against, uh, I'm against letting, uh, job sites go
3 unsupervised. I think that it's, it's -- that's
4 something we aspire to.

5
6 I remember the whole time I was an apprentice to
7 become a journeyman, man, that was the ultimate level
8 and that was something that I wanted. I wanted to
9 have that J card. I wanted to be legitimized, you
10 know. I wanted to be going through school, going
11 through, you know, all those on-the-job training
12 hours. It was never easy, 70 plus, 80 hours a week,
13 you know, and then you still got school. You know, I
14 just said yeah it's your license. It's your
15 insurance, you know, whether you leave someone who
16 isn't a journeyman on the job and they mess it up.
17 Sure, you can take that, but what are you leaving the
18 apprentices to aspire to? They -- now they're going
19 to say well I don't even have to be a journeyman. I
20 can run a job. I just got to be good enough. I feel
21 like we're playing with fire.

22
23 There's a reason that we have that in place, and I
24 just, I just -- I feel like if we were going to modify
25 it, something that -- I mean and I'm on the other --



1 I'm on the, the real conservative side. I would say
2 like a fourth year that's made it halfway through and
3 can prove that he, he passed his halfway mark in
4 school. Now that could be considered like now you're
5 starting to let them take over the crew and get in --
6 uh, get that experience of being a journeyman on the
7 job running the crew. Now I see that, uh, being okay.
8 But as far as, uh, letting like a third or -- I
9 plumbed my first house at eight months. Now I had to
10 cut out 25 percent of it, you know, but, you know, but
11 I was one of those guys. Plumbing for me was real --
12 it just came natural. I was, I was a go-getter, you
13 know.

14
15 And, uh, but I, I see the other side of that, and I've
16 seen a lot of things that I've had to fix. Uh, those
17 calls on Saturdays when you're with your family
18 because something going horribly wrong, and you're
19 like well didn't I leave the dude -- you know, I told
20 him how to do that, but he was not a journeyman and
21 then there you are. So I feel like as far as public
22 safety goes, if we're really thinking about what's
23 best -- the best interest of the public, we leave the
24 journeyman in place where it's at. You know, I mean
25 we don't have -- at least we don't have the ratio.



1 Look at the electricians, man. They're getting bent
2 over. You know, they got to have 1:2 and in
3 Washington it's the same way. It's one journeyman for
4 two apprentices.

5
6 Um, but when it does come down to public safety, I
7 really feel, uh, uh, like I said, you know, a fourth
8 year that's made it halfway through I think at that
9 point he's proved that he's gone, you know, 'cause
10 part of being a -- I've seen guys out there that told
11 me they're a plumber for 20 years, and I say when did
12 you go to school? Did you finish school? Nope. I
13 say you ain't a plumber, dude. You're a hang out.
14 You go to school, everybody. This is one of the
15 hardest things we have to go through is taking care of
16 your family, going to work, and then putting that
17 effort in and getting through school.

18
19 So I think if we do away with that or the
20 apprenticeship program, it leaves nothing for the
21 apprentice to aspire to, and we got to give them
22 something. You know, they got to have something to
23 reach for. If there's nothing there to reach for,
24 well (inaudible - 01:00:03) here we go.

25 Nielsen: Thanks, Josh. And I'm going to segue since Steve is

1 coming in here since, you know, we're kind of rolling
2 up on 3:00 already. I'm going to throw two more
3 things out. Practicals and if an apprentice doesn't
4 pass the exam within six months he has to take fourth
5 year again. Thoughts on those. And Steve, I'll let
6 you have the floor.

7 Bennett: Okay. And I didn't give my name last time. So Steve
8 Bennett. I am still a journeyman, so still -- in fact
9 I got, I got to renew my license, um, here shortly,
10 so. Um, so that was me over here, you know,
11 contradicting Josh. I take that practical exam apart
12 every single time, so you know. Anyway, um, this is a
13 sticky wicket. This is something, you know, you might
14 call it a slippery slope, um, and, and it's worse than
15 say giving away, um, certain aspects of our jobs like
16 gas water heaters to our, to our gas -- our, uh, HVAC
17 brethren, um, or sewer lines to the, uh, the
18 excavators.

19
20 Um, what would happen if we changed the language in
21 that law is that we would devalue the journeyman? All
22 of a sudden he is worth less. That means that those
23 of you who are just journeyman -- and I was a
24 contractor once and now I'm just a journeyman. But
25 you -- those of you that, that are journeymen would be



1 worth less. Now that may not happen immediately, but
2 it will happen at some point. Uh, if, if, if, uh, a
3 shop with 50 plumbers can just have one guy in the
4 office answering the phone who's a journeyman plumber,
5 um, that means that you've got apprentices out there
6 who are, who are basically they're paid less. So it,
7 it brings down the value of, of what we do.

8
9 Now how does that relate to public safety? Well by
10 bringing down the value of the people in the field you
11 bring down their knowledge, it does put the public at
12 risk, you know, because now you're going to have
13 people out there. And we -- I don't have to go into
14 it. Josh has already done it. There is the horror
15 stories. We're all familiar with it. So, um, the,
16 the system that we have now keeps the quality of
17 plumbing in this state very high. It's, it's on a
18 much higher level than our surrounding states, and so
19 when those questions are asked, you know, as, as our -
20 - I forgot your first name. That's okay.

21 Frost: Tim.

22 Bennett: Tim. And you know, what, what are the surrounding
23 states doing? Uh, well what they're doing may not
24 necessarily be good. It may be bad. And, uh, do we,
25 do we know the horror stories? Well we might not



1 because we don't live in say Wyoming that has no
2 plumbing codes, you know, or other places. Um, so be
3 careful what you wish for on this one. You know, we,
4 we don't want to devalue, um, the, uh, um, the value
5 of our, of our journeyman plumbers.

6
7 Um, now from a school standpoint, um, you know, I've
8 been, I've been full time at the College of Western
9 Idaho now for seven years. Um, basically what happens
10 there -- and I see it all the time -- um, we lose a
11 third of our first year apprentices before they take
12 their midterm exam. What happens is that they decide
13 they don't want to be plumbers. And you know what,
14 that's great. You know, get another job. It's all
15 good. Um, and then but basically from first year to
16 fourth year, uh, we're graduating about a third to 20
17 -- 25 to 33 percent that start in first year and in
18 fourth year.

19 Nielsen: Can I stop you there, Steve?

20 Bennett: Yeah.

21 Nielsen: Where are we going with this --

22 Bennett: Oh, I'm sorry.

23 Nielsen: -- on supervision?

24 Bennett: I'm sorry. Uh, all I was going to say was that there
25 -- a fair amount are, are going -- are making it

1 through the school. Yeah. Yeah. We're, we're
2 graduating a lot of people.

3 Nielsen: All right.

4 Bennett: So.

5 Nielsen: Thank you, Steve.

6 Bennett: Yeah. So that's all I got.

7 Frost: Thank you.

8 Bovey: Tony Bovey (ph), Dillon Plumbing. Been doing this
9 lovely job for 28 years, whatever it is. Met a lot of
10 guys through school. After I was done with school,
11 they passed -- they aced tests. Didn't make them a
12 plumber. You can teach that code book -- I'm sorry,
13 Steve -- all you want. Guys can pass it with straight
14 A's 100 percent. Doesn't make them a plumber. What
15 makes a plumber is us, um, experienced guys out there
16 showing them how to do it.

17

18 If we, if we go away with, uh, apprenticeship or I
19 think you're on the track there with your one year,
20 after four years if they don't -- or after their
21 fourth year if they don't pass it within a year,
22 there's a reason they're not passing it 'cause they
23 don't know what the heck they're doing. Get them back
24 in there to pass that test or give them another year
25 to figure it out. Maybe they'll advance themselves



1 with their company where they can be trained. Go to
2 their supervisor I need help. Somebody needs to teach
3 me how to plumb. Just because you can run a snake
4 down a pipe doesn't make you a plumber. There's a
5 difference between service and construction. And we
6 need to teach the difference and teach them how to be
7 plumbers.

8 Williams: Couple comments on testing. I don't think they sho- -
9 - and I'm Derrick Williams with Johansson Plumbing.
10 We have a guy that has taken the test and failed, had
11 taken fourth year. This guy could probably plumb
12 circles around half the guys in this room. The guy's
13 fast. He's good. It's clean, and it's to code. He
14 has problems with testing. I don't know if it's a
15 reading thing or what. So but then to force that guy
16 to go back and sit through fourth year again and again
17 when it's not doing him any good is kind of a waste.

18
19 Now the other thing, you may address this. We can
20 talk about everything in here and we can take it to
21 the Plumbing Board and the Plumbing Board can make
22 whatever regula- -- you know, recommendations, they do
23 not make law and they cannot write code, correct? It
24 must be legislative. So even though we come to
25 agreement, the Plumbing Board backs this, there could



1 be a legislative committee in there that cans the
2 whole thing and does away with it. So if you really
3 want to be active in promoting plumbing, you better be
4 on your legislatures here.

5 Nielsen: Good point, Derrick.

6 Eddie: Eddie (inaudible - 01:06:42), CMI. Have a
7 contractor's license. I got my journeyman's license
8 in 1984 and back in those days any inspector can do
9 your practical. Lee Rice was a rookie inspector, did
10 mine. He's been retired for how many damn years now.
11 So I see Kenny's side, and I see the other guy's side.
12 I, I do agree with Steve on this. If we devalue the
13 journeyman down to, to not letting any apprentice out
14 there, then we're a lot like that state southwest of
15 us that I won't name, California, 'cause they don't
16 have journeyman state license down there. One of the
17 most regulated states in the union except for when it
18 comes to life safety apparently.

19
20 But if we get -- I agree with Kenny on the fact that
21 we got to define -- come up with a better definition
22 of supervised 'cause -- and he's right, certain jobs
23 can be done with less, uh, less supervision than
24 others, but also guys, don't forget just more than
25 houses. You know, we do a lot of medical facilities

1 whether it's a full hospital or whatever. But there's
2 more to plumbing than just a house. You got all kinds
3 of stuff out there besides that, not just service, not
4 just new construction, but it's all important. I have
5 seen cross-connection and contaminateable (ph) school
6 with all the way -- polypropylene glycol because the
7 backflow failed when it shouldn't have ever -- should
8 never happen, blah, blah, blah, blah. We have to have
9 su- -- we have to have journeymen out there, and we
10 just got to define the supervision part. That's
11 really it.

12 Nielsen: There's a bunch more topics we could go over, um, but
13 we're rolling up on 3:00. So I'm going to throw one
14 more out here and that's continuing education. I hear
15 both ends of the spectrum. So if we want to beat
16 continuing education around for the next five, 10
17 minutes, uh, that's the topic on the floor. Anybody
18 got anything on that? Like it, don't like it, want
19 more of it? Come on up.

20 Taylor: No, I didn't say that. Ben Taylor, Taylor Made
21 Plumbing. I'm trying to go fast. So, um, I'm
22 definitely on board with keeping the education. It's
23 just a hassle it seems like to get to the part to take
24 the test, pay the thing, get the, get the paperwork
25 all in. That seems to be the hardest. So is there



1 any way to streamline whether -- uh, what are you guys
2 now, DOPL -- maybe they could do some kind of just
3 here's what we want you to know this year or this
4 three years. Boom, there's a thing, you know,
5 something simple. It just seems like a lot of hoops.
6 But, um, so on today, are we, um -- we're trying to
7 cut out quantity or quality or what's kind of the
8 intent here?

9 Nielsen: So today is --

10 Taylor: I'll sit down while you answer.

11 Nielsen: Okay. Thank you. This is all the IDAPA rules. This
12 is all what's going to get repealed and replaced when
13 we go to the 2023 legislative session. So you know,
14 we have some people here that like to -- they're very
15 good at public speaking, so other trades got through a
16 little more than we did today. But this whole rule
17 packet is what needs to be looked at, discussed, email
18 me, you know. I would say call. You can call but,
19 you know, email is better 'cause then I could take it
20 to everybody and say look 800 people said they want to
21 go this route 'cause Derrick's right. We can decide
22 everything in this room. We can take it to the board.
23 They may yag or nay it, you know. There's discussions
24 among the board members. Then, you know, it goes down
25 to DFM. Then it goes to the legis- -- I mean it goes



1 through a huge process just to get what we currently
2 have is not an overnight thing. And again, so you're
3 looking through the rules. Go through them, you know,
4 and see if there's anything -- the governor wants to
5 reduce barriers. DOPL wants to reduce barriers. I
6 don't want to babysit. I want to be able to say, you
7 know, there's a --

8 Female: Just one question to that. Who are we reducing the
9 barriers for? I guess that's what, you know, when
10 looking at these rules seems like the question to be
11 asking.

12 Nielsen: I'll use a good example.

13 Female: Yeah.

14 Nielsen: Um, so right now you have to be registered to be an
15 apprentice. I get people calling me. Why can I have
16 my kid or grandkid come out with me in the summer?
17 He's 14. He may want to do it. Well I can't register
18 him because of rules 'cause he's six- -- you know, has
19 to be 16. But you know, he's thinking he wants to go
20 along that path. There are barriers that technically,
21 you know, if pops is kicking him down a little pace
22 that, you know, documenting hours, those hours could
23 count.

24 Female: I put my younger kids as laborers and my older is
25 registered as an apprentice, so.



1 Nielsen: So it's, it's --

2 Female: Yeah.

3 Nielsen: -- stuff like that. How can we get more people in the
4 trade without all of the red tape? You know, because
5 everybody says it, we can't get people, you know.
6 Well they don't want to work, you know, being
7 tradesmen. But what can we do to make it easier to
8 get people into the trade? And you know, code wise,
9 what makes your life easier out there that -- it costs
10 you more to do business because I have to hold you up
11 to see a test, and I'm just using that as an example.
12 That sort of thing. So as you look through that, how
13 can you guys be more proficient and not have us
14 constantly needing to be there to say, okay, that's
15 good?

16 Female: Another question.

17 Nielsen: Sure.

18 Female: Is the state exploring any other avenues in getting
19 people into the trade? So my question for this is,
20 you know, when you talk to a teenager, which I have
21 some, about being a plumber, right, there's some
22 barriers. They, they, they, they kind of -- you know,
23 there's this perception about it, right? So has the
24 state -- 'cause it is obviously becoming a problem.
25 We don't have people coming into these trades. These

1 wonderful guys out here are aging out. You know, has
2 the state looked to other avenues for --

3 Nielsen: So we have --

4 Female: -- you know, to get --

5 Nielsen: To answer your question -- and there is a Strap
6 program, and I don't know all the details. But the
7 intent -- 'cause there's some -- they're not trade
8 schools -- vocational schools like over on Overland.
9 The kids are going through high school. They get
10 introduced to the trades in their junior year, and
11 they can kind of pick a path. We're working with, uh,
12 CTE to help these kids so they're like okay I ain't
13 going to college. I'm going to be a plumber,
14 electrician, HVAC tech, and as they go through their
15 junior and senior years that time counts towards the
16 apprenticeship. And then they get out. They can go
17 to Steve, anybody else's apprenticeship program and
18 start as a second year. I don't know how well that
19 program is working right now. It's still out there.
20 But that's one way we're doing it, and we do have
21 meetings with CTE and other agencies to see what we
22 can do.

23 Male 3: I can get you Gina Robinson with the Idaho Department
24 of Labor. She has some information on, on that
25 subject after the meeting.



1 Female: Mm-Hmm. I was just looking at that in terms of
2 (inaudible - 01:14:18) an issue 'cause, you know, like
3 we don't necessarily want to devalue the trade to get
4 people in it, right. Like --

5 Nielsen: Yeah.

6 Female: -- we want, we want to still have -- protect the
7 health and safety of people while getting people to
8 come, right?

9 Nielsen: Yeah.

10 Burton: Glen Burton, Best Plumbing again. On the topic of
11 continuing education, as it stands right now, I feel,
12 feel it's a waste of time. Uh, I've had to do it
13 several times, and basically you pay your money
14 online, you take a test, and your continuing education
15 is done. You get your certificate. It doesn't
16 actually teach you anything with what's changing. So
17 I feel that we either need to make it -- I don't know
18 -- if it's -- I'm taking it from the wrong place, but
19 to me it's just a waste of time and money. So it
20 either needs to be done away with or we need to change
21 how we implement it so that it actually provides a
22 benefit for what we're spending our money on.

23 Male 4: Sorry. I'm not even going to come up to the podium.

24 Nielsen: Come up to the podium.

25 Male 4: I'm sorry. Then you'll have both of us.

1 Male 5: No. I, I have something on this one because, um, I've
2 only been a journ- -- I work for Premiere Plumbing
3 with Bo, and I've been a journeyman since 2018. Steve
4 embedded stuff into my head so much that any time I do
5 the CWI continuing education I'm bored out of my mind
6 because I remember it all in here already. So it's
7 just redundant to me because I still remember every
8 one of those isometric drawings. I still remember all
9 the pipes. I remember everything we go through in
10 those classes because of what he taught me in school.
11 And the code hasn't changed since I've been a
12 journeyman, nothing in the code book, so there really
13 is no point to have CEUs unless our code's constantly
14 changing. And as far as contractors, I don't think
15 they should have to do double what a journeyman does
16 'cause they know more than we know. And so but that's
17 what I have to say about that.

18 Nielsen: Thank you. You run a tight ship, Bo.

19 Bloom: Cameron Bloom with Ultimate Plumbing again. I'm a
20 journeyman. Um, I just wanted to say that a practical
21 exam I'm not for it. I don't think it's a good thing.
22 I think you're doing practical in the field for four
23 years. If you can't figure it out, you're not going
24 to be hired. And people will fire you if you cannot
25 do the job. That's it.



1 Nielsen: Okay. Thank you.

2 Polum: Uh, Troy with Optimum. Um, continuing education I'm
3 going to contradict. I think it's important. Um, we
4 all talk about how important it is for our trade, and
5 I think it's just another thing that makes it that
6 much more annoying for some of those that think it's
7 not that important. So let them go ahead and work,
8 uh, as a framer. Um, um, I think -- so I think that's
9 important.

10

11 I think on the journeyman's thing -- and not to make
12 it to go over -- I think journeymen are important. I
13 do think we have to protect our industry. We keep
14 talking about that as a trade as we talk among
15 ourselves how we need to protect it. We want our
16 wages to be fair. If we eliminate those numbers, then
17 it will happen. Not everybody's honest. We will
18 devalue ourselves. And trust me, it would be a lot
19 easier for me to just throw, you know, six, seven
20 apprentices on an apartment, but I think we need to
21 protect our trade that way. So that's what I wanted
22 to say.

23 Nielsen: All right. With that I'm going to wrap it up. Again,
24 go through the rules. Let me know what you think. My
25 cards are on the back. Email me. I appreciate you

1 guys showing up. Again, 1:30 in the afternoon is not
2 the optimum time to be, you know, pulling people off
3 the job even though they were working illegally but
4 you know. So again, thanks. If anybody wants to talk
5 afterwards, I'll be --

6 Male 3: One quick question that I thought we were going to
7 cover.

8 Nielsen: Sure.

9 Male 3: Is this a push towards the IPC that we've done before
10 and eliminating UPC code?

11 Nielsen: The IP- -- are you -- now okay.

12 (Crosstalk)

13 Nielsen: We have the Idaho State Plumbing Code which is based
14 on the Uniform Plumbing Code.

15 Male 3: Right.

16 Nielsen: We are not pushing for the International Plumbing
17 Code.

18 Male 3: Okay.

19 Nielsen: No.

20 Male 3: Okay.

21 Nielsen: All right. Thanks again.

22 Male 3: I wanted to make sure it was not a roundabout way for
23 that.

24 Nielsen: No.

25 Male 3: Okay.

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