

# Lewiston Plumbing Board Meeting

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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 Nielsen: We are recording these meetings for transcripts so  
2 they'll be public record. So I'm going to ask if you  
3 have any comments please come up to the podium, state  
4 your name, who you're with, license type would be nice  
5 but mainly your name, who you're with, and, uh, let us  
6 know what you think. My name is John Nielsen. I'm  
7 the Plumbing Program Manager for the Division of  
8 Occupational and Professional Licenses, formerly the  
9 Division of Building Safety. What the governor did  
10 was took 11 self-governing agencies and put us all  
11 under one roof with the name change and stuff.

12  
13 But before I get too far into ZBR and what we're here  
14 to do today, I'd like to make some introductions.  
15 This is Tim Frost. He's our Operations and our  
16 Regulatory Bureau Chief for DOPL. We've got Chuck  
17 Knapp, our Area Supervisor. Probably most of you know  
18 Steve Casner. And in the back we got a couple  
19 electricians, Gary and Ward back there, so if there's  
20 anything electrical you want to discuss, you can take  
21 them out in the hallway.

22  
23 But what we're here to do today is to get industry's  
24 feedback on the plumbing IDAPA rules and what the  
25 governor did is he, um, issued an Executive Order



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2020-01, also known as Zero-Based Regulations, and what that did was standardize the process by which every agency, not just DOPL, has to go through, um, to do a retrospective analysis on the rules chapter, and he set that for a five-year rotation. But when we do ZBR we have to ask questions about our rules, some of them being whether the benefit of the rule intended to achieve or be realized, whether those benefits justify the cost of the rules and whether there's a less restrictive alternative to accomplish the benefits. And when we do this analysis we have to take into consideration the cost of benefits of it, what surrounding states are doing, including South Dakota and Alaska. So we look into their programs, see if they require apprenticeships, if they require four years of school, whatever they got, you know, which may pertain to licensing. There's some -- you know, we just got to kind of justify everything as it pertains to those around us.

So going forward, as I said, there'll be a five-year schedule, but this is the first step in this whole process. I'm going to go through the rules. We can discuss them. But anything that's discussed today will not be in effect tomorrow. We still have to do -



1 - we're going to compile all this information. We've  
2 hit -- this will be our seventh stop. We got two more  
3 next week. We'll hit nine cities. We'll gather all  
4 this information, compile it, take it to the board,  
5 discuss that with them. We'll have the negotiated  
6 rule-making process, so they'll be noticed up. You'll  
7 see all the proposed changes. Um, they'll be out  
8 there for public records. They'll go through, kick it  
9 around, see where they end up. Once they bless that  
10 process, it'll go down to the governor's office.  
11 They'll do the same thing. And eventually it will get  
12 to the legislature and they will yay or nay or whole  
13 rule package. So again, big process but this is just  
14 the first step.

15  
16 So before I get into our rules, does anybody have any  
17 questions about ZBR or DOPL in general?

18  
19 All right. So I handed out what are the current  
20 amendments to the plumbing code. Don't mind the  
21 purple. I'll explain that here in a minute. But we  
22 have currently 50 rules that amend something in the  
23 codebook and 20 subsections, the little A's, B's and  
24 C's you see underneath there. So in an effort to  
25 reduce barriers and, you know, get rid of regulations



1 that may not be affording the industry or anybody  
2 anything, they're just -- they're a bunch of words,  
3 you know, that we've added onto it to explain stuff,  
4 we're going to look at these and go through here. So  
5 what I did just sitting in my office, the ones that  
6 are in purple I kinda looked at and thought well maybe  
7 we don't need this one. So what I'd like from you  
8 guys as you go through here -- again, these are all up  
9 for grabs, like them, don't like them, just need a  
10 little tweak. That's what we're here to find out from  
11 you guys.

12  
13 And I'll kick it off here with 01-A and B. They're  
14 kinda the same but the point of this one is does  
15 industry feel that the inspectors in DOPL should be  
16 there to witness your pressure test? Not get rid of  
17 rough-in inspections or finals but the pressure test  
18 itself or is there a way that the industry can self-  
19 regulate themselves with that? With that, I'd have  
20 you come up again, state your name if you have any  
21 comment one way or the other on it.

22 Lowe: My name is Howard Lowe. Some of you know me, most of  
23 you probably don't. Uh, I've been an inspector and  
24 have worked in the trades for a number of years, uh,  
25 that number of years being most of my life. Having

1 the, uh, having the option of not having to have a  
2 test witnessed should be up to the inspector I  
3 believe, um, whether he, you know, trusts the fixture  
4 or trusts the contractor. But just to say that  
5 there's no need for an inspector to ever witness a  
6 test because I've known guys that would lie about a  
7 test and they'd risk, they'd risk the consequences.  
8 So that's my two cents' worth.

9 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

10 Hewitt: Jacob Hewitt, uh, journeyman plumber. Currently work  
11 for the City of (inaudible - 00:06:55) for  
12 inspections. Uh, to add to that, I think it should be  
13 left up to the inspector because it's situational  
14 based. If you have a massive building with a huge  
15 plumbing system, that inspector is going to want to  
16 see a test. You got a little residential remodel with  
17 a little bit of piping that's kind of difficult to put  
18 a test on to begin with. Inspector could waive it  
19 and, and go on. So I think just to completely remove  
20 that causes situations where a required test might be  
21 missed. Um, I think it's, um, more situational based  
22 than completely removing it.

23 Nielsen: Okay. Anyone else thinking the other way? How about  
24 excavation? And the reason I highlighted this I mean  
25 I helped -- well I wrote it and then took it to the



1 board and everything, and the intent here was to get  
2 it so the slowest of the plumbers could understand  
3 what to backfill with. And again, realistically how  
4 far do we need to go, you know, in your lives when if  
5 this rule went away the codebook says no frozen dirt,  
6 no boulders, no rocks, no construction trash, do we  
7 really need to start getting this detailed with rules  
8 and regulating it? Anyone?

9  
10 All right. Then I'm going to throw it out to you  
11 guys. As you look through these pages, is there  
12 anything in here that you would like to see changed or  
13 amended? And I'll, I'll throw a little tidbit out  
14 here. Cleanouts, everybody love the way cleanouts are  
15 written right now?

16 Lowe: No.

17 Nielsen: Come on up.

18 Lowe: So Howard Lowe again. Uh, the cleanout regulations  
19 for in crawlspaces I think everybody knows about  
20 those. Uh, above the floor I think we're good. But  
21 the regulations for cleanouts in crawlspaces are kind  
22 of outdated and moot. Talk to anybody in the trades I  
23 think you'd probably find some degree of agreement  
24 that, uh, most of the time we can't fulfill those  
25 unless we take them out of the crawlspaces and take



1           them to the outside of the building which nobody likes  
2           that as far as an esthetic, uh, uh, appearance. But,  
3           uh, a lot of places do it. You go out to the back of  
4           the building and you run the cleanout -- two-way  
5           cleanout out there.

6  
7           I think what we found is that, uh, with plastic pipe  
8           we don't have -- when plumbing systems are correctly  
9           installed we don't have the plug-ups that we used to  
10          have with iron pipe and things like that. Um, and  
11          when we have a mainline clog nobody's taking a machine  
12          down to the crawlspace anyway. They're going to pull  
13          a toilet, and they're going to go down that way and  
14          that's the way to do it. Uh, not to bring a cable  
15          machine into somebody's house is ever a great idea but  
16          that's usually what happens, so.

17 Nielsen: So a little more detail on that, Howard. Would you  
18           eliminate cleanouts in the crawl altogether?

19 Lowe:     Yeah.

20 Nielsen:  Okay.

21 Lowe:     Yeah. I think I would or, or, or the requirement for  
22           a cleanout. Yeah. I wouldn't, I wouldn't ban them,  
23           but I, I would eliminate the requirement for a  
24           cleanout in a crawlspace.

25 Nielsen:  Okay. Thank you. Anyone? As far as above the floor,



1 that's where we get a lot of the complaints is more  
2 the bases stack and above the floor. Does anybody  
3 feel that those should be looked at? There's been  
4 discussions in previous meetings, you know, kinda  
5 declaring a water closet to be a cleanout because most  
6 of the service guys will say yeah we just pull the  
7 toilet and don't even worry about trying to find the  
8 cleanout. Does anybody have any thoughts on those?  
9

10 And fair warning, if there's not a whole bunch of  
11 talking, I mean, you know, I'm not up here to give you  
12 a code class or anything. So, you know, if nobody  
13 says anything, we'll get through this fairly quickly.  
14 Here on the second page, seismic provisions, the catch  
15 with this one by deleting this rule it actually would  
16 put it back into the code, so we'd be back to being  
17 required to strap water heaters. How do you guys feel  
18 about it? I mean there's been, you know, one  
19 earthquake that I felt down in the Treasure Valley,  
20 you know, in the past year and a half, two years, and  
21 all of a sudden we need to get back to strapping water  
22 heaters. Does anybody feel that you want to go back  
23 or would you like it deleted?

24 Male 1: Was it just strapping water heaters or was it lateral  
25 support for overhead lines, things like that?

1 Nielsen: It just says strapping water heaters, supports.

2 Hewitt: Jacob Hewitt again. I guess my question would be, um,  
3 a lot of this I know we've addressed life safety  
4 issues. Looking back in the history of water heaters  
5 falling off platforms in Idaho, how many times has  
6 that been a life safety issue? Has it ever? If not,  
7 why do we need it in the code?

8 Nielsen: No, that's a good point. That's exactly what we're  
9 here to discuss, you know, the life safety aspect of a  
10 lot of this stuff because, you know, when somebody  
11 brought up put it back in the code he said he was out  
12 on the job and saw it wobble. So, you know, but  
13 again, as we go through this there literally is a form  
14 to fill out as we go through here and, you know,  
15 they're like well how many people got hit in the head  
16 with water heaters or you know. It might not get that  
17 detailed. I guess we're going, we're going to find  
18 out. But maybe it will, you know, and we'll have to  
19 explain it well none that I know of but it could  
20 happen. And they do not want a "could happen".

21 Male 1: (Inaudible - 00:13:23) with the last time again Dallas  
22 1984 you had (inaudible - 00:13:28).

23 Nielsen: Anything else code wise that you can think of? And it  
24 doesn't necessarily have to be here in the rules.  
25 Something in the codebook that you've been running



1 into out in the field that in some section that you  
2 find isn't worth the time and effort, isn't life  
3 safety.

4  
5 How about -- well let's just go to air admittance  
6 valves. As we look through here, A tells you where  
7 you can use them and C tells you exactly where.  
8 Everything else, you know, is kind of -- B says okay  
9 you might be able to if somebody lets you in a remote  
10 sink. Do you feel that air admittance valves these  
11 days are -- you know, should be allowed more places?  
12 Or if we just basically spelled out island sinks.  
13 There was a suggestion I believe yesterday up in Post,  
14 Post Falls that said add peninsula to that but leave  
15 it residential and be done with it.

16 Male 1: In other words, connect the (inaudible - 00:15:00).

17 Nielsen: Correct. Show of hands who wants to see peninsulas in  
18 there? All right. Six, I catch over here, seven.  
19 All right.

20 Male 2: Residential applications only.

21 Nielsen: Okay. Forty-eight here I put trap seals, and I put  
22 trap seals mainly because right in the middle of it it  
23 says, "Or other approved trap seal protection  
24 devices." There's no other approved ones currently.  
25 You know, you would see them on the plans all the

1 time. The engineers want to throw in sure seals or  
2 cow tongues. Does industry feel like, you know, maybe  
3 it's time to add those in certain instances or all the  
4 time? I mean they will advertise that it replaces the  
5 trap. I'm not advocating that. You still need the  
6 trap. But as an actual trap primer or trap seal in a  
7 commercial application where, you know, infrequent use  
8 type, does anybody see or had any experience with  
9 these devices? Because anybody that's -- come on up.  
10 I know you're itching to talk.

11 Bunney: Uh, yes. My name is Blake Bunney and I work for  
12 Mike's Mechanical here in Lewiston. And, uh, as far  
13 as the trap seals, uh, I, I have used for a pretty bad  
14 sewer smell before those ones with the -- I think you  
15 called them cow's tongue where they look like a party  
16 blower, those, you know.

17 Nielsen: Mm-Hmm.

18 Bunney: Those things, um, I mean if you put them in right and  
19 glue, and glue them in proper applications, they seem  
20 to -- and I haven't been back, and I haven't heard  
21 back. And it's been a long time and that was years  
22 ago. And I'm sure they've gotten better, and there's  
23 more makers and stuff of them now. I'm assuming that  
24 we could probably get rid of such solutions as that,  
25 um, or put an addendum in there, a little different

1           wording maybe, um, because they do work. Um, as far  
2           as getting rid of trap primers in all entirety, I, I  
3           don't know if that would be the best thing in the  
4           world, um, 'cause there are applications where they do  
5           need them, so.

6 Nielsen: Okay.

7 Bunney: Um, but --

8 Lowe: Howard Lowe. Um, there's a couple of those devices  
9           probably in this building and maybe the one across the  
10          street. When I worked out of this building I'd get a  
11          couple of applications of those to go in. And my  
12          experience with trap primers and, and the, uh, uh,  
13          trap seal devices that we're talking about is usually  
14          the trap seal devices outlast the trap primer. The  
15          trap primer will fail before the -- before those  
16          devices do. Uh, do either of them stand the test of  
17          time? Probably not. But, uh, you know, you've got  
18          to, you've got to pick a solution somewhere. But say  
19          that trap se- -- uh, trap primers or the -- and all  
20          solution to it they fail just as often as anything  
21          does. I think it's probably up to an engineer's  
22          discretion as to what we should use.

23 Nielsen: So Howard, as far as a cost to benefit, I mean that --  
24           you know, you're though I haven't priced them out in  
25           years but, you know, a little rubber cow tongue or the



1           sure seal compared to the actual brass primer and the  
2           soft copper or even three-eighths pegs labor --

3   Lowe:       What, what, what we attempted to cost?

4   Nielsen:   Yeah.

5   Lowe:       Yeah, or lapse.

6   Nielsen:   So you know, obviously --

7   Lowe:       Yeah. But no. I, I, I think we've, I think we've got  
8           a, uh, a group of materials that are available to  
9           industry to be able to be used and be reliable over a  
10          long period of time but, uh, to say that anything  
11          mechanical is not going to fail is false. It will  
12          fail.

13   Nielsen:   So would you like -- if you don't mind me asking some  
14          more questions.

15   Lowe:       No, go ahead.

16   Nielsen:   Would you like as far as, you know, new innovations,  
17          that sort of thing, more of a permission-less  
18          innovation process where we leave the door wide open  
19          for you guys to bring in and try these new products  
20          until we see there is a need and then start regulating  
21          or would you --

22   Lowe:       Yeah, I'd like to see that because ultimately it falls  
23          back to the contractor, the engineer and the insurance  
24          companies.

25   Nielsen:   Okay.

1     Lowe:        You know, DBS isn't going to pick up the ticket for  
2                   any failure, so I, I think that in certain cases maybe  
3                   we ought to look at letting technology step forward a  
4                   bit.  If there are issues, let it fail.

5     Nielsen:   All right.  Thank you.

6     Lowe:        Thank you.

7     Nielsen:   All right.  Jacob.

8     Hewitt:     Same, same thought.  Jacob Hewitt.  Um, it may just be  
9                   getting down to, uh, to wording.  Um, I think your  
10                  concern in here was it's worded "other approved trap  
11                  seals".  Well if it's not approved by UPC so it's not  
12                  approved, right?  What if it was worded that other,  
13                  other trap seal approved by the local authority or  
14                  jurisdiction?  That gives it a little bit more -- like  
15                  Howard was saying, he approved certain devices in this  
16                  building, and I agree with him.  I've, I've got a lot  
17                  of trap primers throughout the city, and I know none  
18                  of them work until you adjust them and then they work  
19                  for a week --

20    Nielsen:    Sure.

21    Hewitt:     -- and then they don't work.

22    Nielsen:    But I guess that's where I'd ask you then.  Again,  
23                  instead of actually writing something down about trap  
24                  primers, pretty much most plumbers out here know if  
25                  that trap is frequently in use, you need something.



1 Do we need --

2 Hewitt: Right.

3 Nielsen: -- to spell out exactly what you need to -- or could  
4 the inspectors --

5 Hewitt: No, no. I think it --

6 Nielsen: -- industry, all kind of commonsense to figure it out  
7 that, hey, you need something in here.

8 Hewitt: Exactly. And I think that it should be worded that --  
9 I don't know how you'd word it. Um, you need  
10 something, but it's up to you to decide what you need.

11 Nielsen: Well I guess what I'm asking you is if -- would you  
12 see an issue getting rid of that rule if it reverts  
13 back to the code that says you need some sort of, you  
14 know, primer or something to make sure it maintains a  
15 seal right.

16 Hewitt: Right. Yeah. And I think that's all it needs is just  
17 seeing that it needs something to protect it.

18 Nielsen: Okay. Thanks. Anyone else on any of them? All  
19 right. If not, we've spent about 25 minutes there.  
20 I'll get into some other topics. And again, I've got  
21 my cards on the desk. This is a process. When you're  
22 sitting there thinking about it and, you know, driving  
23 home or whatever and you come up with something or  
24 between now and, geez I don't know, another six months  
25 probably, if you come up with something -- and again,





1           it doesn't have to be exactly this; it can be in the  
2           code -- send me an email. Writing on something or,  
3           you know, sending me something in writing on this.  
4           That way I can show the board and the legislature, you  
5           know, what industry is saying in writing. But if you  
6           think of anything, feel free to drop me a line and let  
7           me know and we can discuss it and bring it up.

8  
9           So Post Falls really didn't have much to say on it,  
10          but I'm going to throw it out there. Couple years ago  
11          we switched the HVAC permit fee, the residential  
12          permit fee to a base permit fee and back to counting  
13          fixtures. Obviously those of you that pull permits  
14          were on the square footage right now. Do you guys  
15          have a feeling one way or another?

16 Male 3: I like square footage.

17 Nielsen: Okay.

18 Lowe: As an inspector I like square footage. Okay. Now  
19          (inaudible - 00:22:47) save the time.

20 Nielsen: All right. And I'm --

21 Male 4: From a, from a cost benefit standpoint, if you're  
22          doing it by square footage and you're only putting in,  
23          you know, certain fixtures and it's in a small  
24          apartment or house or small part of a scenario, is  
25          that really fair to the consumer?



1 Lowe: Uh, probably not. Probably not.

2 Male 4: Are there other ways to approach it or ideas of  
3 different ways to approach it?

4 Lowe: Well there's only one of two ways to do it, one of  
5 two. Either do it by square footage or you do it by  
6 the fixture. I don't see any other way around that.  
7 And yeah, uh, but how many times does that lend?  
8 Maybe more than I think.

9 Nielsen: I mean I know, you know, it's 50/50. I mean obviously  
10 through the square footage out there you know what to  
11 scratch a check for.

12 Lowe: Right.

13 Nielsen: If you go to fixtures, yes you may -- if you got a  
14 2,500 square foot house that somebody's, you know,  
15 throwing in one bath or one and a half baths or  
16 something, but if somebody's throwing in four on  
17 another one, you're paying the same fees.

18 Lowe: Right.

19 Nielsen: Um, permit -- or fee due wise we still run it. We're  
20 just basing it off of square footage if we find a set  
21 of plans.

22 Lowe: And maybe for some contractors and even for myself  
23 sometimes it was easier to count the fixtures than it  
24 was to figure out what the square footage was.

25 Nielsen: So let me just boil it down. Would you be opposed if

1 we looked at going back that way? 'Cause again, it's  
2 a negotiated rule making process.

3 Lowe: I wouldn't care one way or the other.

4 Nielsen: Okay.

5 Lowe: If I, if I were still inspecting, I wouldn't care but  
6 --

7 Nielsen: They need more to do now anyway.

8 Lowe: Good. They must be busy doing (inaudible - 00:24:39)  
9 eight bucks a pop.

10 Nielsen: Apprentice registration, currently an apprentice needs  
11 to ha- -- be under the constant on-the-job  
12 supervision, meaning you and your apprentice are out  
13 there, you as a journeyman. You're trimming out a  
14 house and you got to go, you know, on a service call  
15 and fix a water leak or something, you can't leave  
16 your apprentice there. You got to drag him off, even  
17 if you think he's capable or know he's capable. How  
18 does industry feel about constant on-the-job  
19 supervision? Is it -- you got come on up, Howard.  
20 We're going to get into all the -- you ought to just  
21 sit up here.

22 Lowe: I guess so to be safe.

23 Male 4: There's a seat up there.

24 Lowe: So it's been my understanding for 10 years or more  
25 that if your apprentice could pick up a phone -- and

1           this goes back to when I was inspecting in Southern  
2           Idaho. If your inspector -- or if your journeyman  
3           could be reached by the apprentice on a cellphone to  
4           ask him a question, the inspector said call your  
5           journeyman and he answered the phone, you were good.  
6           I know it's not written anywhere, but I also know that  
7           was accepted.

8 Nielsen:    Hmm.

9 Lowe:        Maybe, maybe not by Meridian but well the areas I  
10           worked for it was. And to be honest with you, I ran  
11           my crews that way for a long time.

12 Nielsen:    So from a life safety aspect, is it --

13 Lowe:        Haven't killed anybody that I know of.

14 Nielsen:    -- my job -- is it my job to regulate that or is it,  
15           you know, up to you and do you know who you can and  
16           can't leave on a job by themselves?

17 Lowe:        Oh, I, I better know. As, as a manager or as a  
18           contractor, I better know who I can leave on a job and  
19           who I can't. But you know, nobody's perfect but  
20           nothing's perfect. So if, uh, if I look back to say  
21           even when I started in my apprenticeship back in 1986,  
22           there were no cellphones. There was no way. If you,  
23           if you were up a creek or something like that, you  
24           might be hours from -- you couldn't leave somebody up  
25           there that didn't have all the answers. So I

1 understand constant supervision under that situation.  
2 But times and technology changes, and with the  
3 everybody having a cellphone and Google and email and  
4 all that, we have answers available to us. I think if  
5 that is not, uh, being considered, I think we're  
6 making a mistake. I think for a journeyman not to be  
7 able to go look at another job -- and I'm not saying  
8 leave the apprentice there to do the work and never be  
9 around, but, uh, the availability of a cellphone to  
10 ask a question or for the journeyman to check in how's  
11 it going, something like that or the inspector to be  
12 able to say call your journeyman. We're talking about  
13 this right now. I think that's fine.

14 Nielsen: So if you just came for a day, what did you --

15 Lowe: Oh.

16 Nielsen: -- would you like to see it more like HVAC where it  
17 just says you'll be supervised by a journeyman?

18 Lowe: No. I'd like to see it more like HVAC.

19 Nielsen: Okay.

20 Lowe: I'd like to see it less super- -- less supervised or,  
21 uh, less supervised at a certain level of  
22 apprenticeship, completion of, uh, second year you  
23 start to get to be unsupervised more.

24 Male 5: That was my thought. Could it be kind of --

25 Lowe: Yeah.

1 Nielsen: I know, I know but --

2 Hewitt: It's the me and Howard show. It's Jacob Hewitt again.

3 Nielsen: That's all right.

4 Hewitt: Um, that was my thought is can it be a, a step process  
5 where it's like for the first year of apprenticeship  
6 yes you need constant supervision. After that, could  
7 it be, Your Honor, you need to have a, a journeyman  
8 available or just be like HVAC where it has to be,  
9 quote, "supervised"? Because yeah, your, your first  
10 six months of apprenticeship is a whole lot different  
11 than your last six months of apprenticeship. You  
12 should be able to run a job by your last six months.  
13 So it's, it's -- it can't be --

14 Lowe: Doesn't Washington have a system, something like that  
15 where --

16 Male 4: That's what I was going to say. Yeah.

17 (Crosstalk)

18 Lowe: -- it's less supervised as you go along?

19 Male 4: -- 75 percent.

20 Lowe: Or no, you could have more --

21 Male 4: It's 4,000 hours on service only.

22 Lowe: Okay.

23 Male 4: Uh, once a guy has 4,000 hours, uh, he can then, uh,  
24 take a service call, um, and be able to be contacted  
25 remotely through iPad, phone, you know, whatever.

1 Nielsen: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

2 Hewitt: That would, that would be my suggestion is more of a  
3 stepped.

4 Nielsen: All right. Come on up.

5 Krels: Uh, Joe Krels. I'm a training director for Local 44  
6 Plumbers and Fitters up in Spokane. Uh, I would agree  
7 with, um, with the steps. Um, we kind of talked about  
8 it yesterday up in Post Falls. Um, one thing I would  
9 have to say with a, with a lot of the code and a lot  
10 of the regulations that are put in place and whether  
11 or not it's DOPL's responsibility, um, I kind of feel  
12 it somewhat is. It's our responsibility as an  
13 industry or an entity to protect those that can't  
14 protect themselves in instances, and just about every  
15 code or every rule was written because somebody was  
16 taking advantage of it.

17

18 Um, and I would hate to see a first-year apprentice  
19 being left out there by himself that doesn't know  
20 anything and the contractor -- and it's probably  
21 nobody in this room because apparently everybody in  
22 this room cares about what's going on, so I'm sure all  
23 of you guys are in here are, are doing things the  
24 right way.

25

1 But, um, I think it's our duty as industry leaders to  
2 protect those that can't protect themselves. So I  
3 think, you know, an upper year, um, apprentice is, is  
4 plenty capable of working by himself and maybe that be  
5 limited to residential too. Maybe on a commercial job  
6 there should be supervision more of the time. I think  
7 commercial jobs maybe are a little bit bigger.  
8 There's a lot more going on.

9  
10 And apprentices, they're apprentices 'cause they're  
11 getting trained. Um, somebody is supposed to be  
12 training them. They're not just -- I mean I've worked  
13 on my truck many times by myself, but I don't call  
14 myself a mechanic because I wasn't trained by somebody  
15 that knew the industry. So just working on something  
16 and learning things the hard way isn't necessarily  
17 what we want to classify an apprentice as. Just --

18 Male 5: Okay. I want to ask you a quick question.

19 Krels: Yeah.

20 Male 5: I, I agree with you 100 percent. You know, it is  
21 government's responsibility and our -- what we're  
22 looking at here is things from a safety measure. As  
23 we go through this ZBR process it's also our  
24 responsibility to make sure that we're not getting in  
25 the way of contractors in the industry, you know,



1 (inaudible - 00:31:22) innovate. The more, um, we  
2 look at ratios or restricting the journeyman-to-  
3 apprenticeship ratio or expanding the journeyman-to-  
4 apprenticeship ratio or, you know, the supervision in  
5 effect where's the, where's the balance you see there  
6 between how far we go on the safety side compared to  
7 how far we're going to limit the actual contractor's  
8 ability to innovate? I heard this gentleman back here  
9 say, you know, he used to be able to, you know, send  
10 certain guys out. Where's that balancing point where  
11 it becomes so far we're limiting, you know, different,  
12 different, um, methods of actually doing work?

13 Lowe: Yeah. Did I ever make that call? I probably did. I  
14 probably made a bad call and sent the wrong guy out  
15 with --

16 Male 5: We need you up here.

17 Krels: I don't, I don't know what the exact cutoff should be.  
18 I think it should be somewhere in that second or third  
19 period. Um, I also think that 20 or 30 years ago  
20 people were a lot more responsible and a lot smarter  
21 than they are today. That's just my opinion. I think  
22 you could leave somebody on a job 20 years ago if they  
23 were a first period apprentice, and they'd do a lot  
24 better than they would today. Just maybe that's a  
25 little out of line to say, but society, society wise,



1           um, um -- like I said, I don't know what the exact  
2           point that it should be. I just know that, you know,  
3           somebody knows -- a contractor that cares knows who he  
4           can leave and who he can't leave by himself.

5 Nielsen: Okay.

6 Krels:    Some con- -- all contractors probably know that and  
7           some don't care. And some are going to leave a kid  
8           out on a job where they're going to take advantage of  
9           a kid doing a whole job for them, and they're just  
10          going to get cheap labor. And he's going to be a  
11          subpar mechanic when he turns out as a journeyman, if  
12          he turns out as a journeyman if he can pass a, a state  
13          test at the end.

14 Male 5:  So if, if you're going with the approach of giving the  
15          contractor that type of flexibility, would you be  
16          supportive of giving the flexibility but also the  
17          board having strong accountability measures to take  
18          care of the bad contractors that are --

19 Krels:    Absolutely.

20 Male 5:   -- out there playing bad?

21 Krels:    Absolutely. I mean I think that's --

22 Male 5:   As, as, as like kind of both ways, the push and pull  
23          of it.

24 Krels:    Yeah, yeah. I mean I think we're all responsible.

25           The contractor is inevitably responsible for that

1 young person or old person, apprentice. Um, they're  
2 ultimately responsible through their insurance or  
3 whatever. But, um, I think, you know, we as industry  
4 leaders have a responsibility to, to somewhat keep  
5 track of them. And most inspectors know who their  
6 good contractors are and know who they're not or who  
7 aren't their good contractors. But I don't think  
8 pulling out, um, all together or saying as long as you  
9 can be reached via phone, um, that you don't need to  
10 be supervised at any level. I, I just -- I think  
11 that's a bad idea as far as safety wise goes and, and  
12 training for the industry as a whole.

13 Nielsen: All right. Thanks.

14 Bunney: Uh, Blake Bunney again. I mean I, I -- I've did  
15 probably most -- half my career I'd say by phone or  
16 Facetime or whatever, you know, learning. Granted  
17 most of it was residential, yes. Um, and so that's  
18 where I think you got to break it up residential,  
19 commercial. And then but we already have -- you know,  
20 we kind of need to narrow that down a little bit as  
21 far as commercial and residential codes go anyway.  
22  
23 As far as apprenticeship goes, I feel like it's --  
24 like he said, commercial side there's a lot more going  
25 on most of the time. But then again, when it's a

1 commercial like Taco Bell and but it's, you know,  
2 commercial that should still -- you know, I mean  
3 authority having jurisdiction it should be a lot of it  
4 as well. They know who the contractors are, and they  
5 know what our work looks like or should, um, most of  
6 the time.

7  
8 And, uh, at the end, at the end of the day the  
9 subcontractors that are going to take advantage of the  
10 rules are going to do it anyway. It doesn't matter  
11 whether this rules is in place or not, whether we take  
12 in or out. They're going to do it anyway 'cause  
13 they've been doing it. It doesn't matter whether we  
14 put it in there or not.

15  
16 Um, I do think that there should be, uh, definitely  
17 like a second year, you know, residential you're more,  
18 you know, maybe two and a half years commercial you  
19 can go, you know, it depends where your hours fall.  
20 If you do two and a half years commercial, you're --  
21 you know, maybe by the third year you're pretty well  
22 along and can -- I can put a guy on a cable that -- I  
23 mean on a strut rack and let him run copper for, you  
24 know, a day in a big commercial building, you know,  
25 just throwing tees. You don't necessarily have to



1 know what -- he, he knows how to put up struts, like  
2 stuff like that.

3

4 I mean there definitely should be a little bit of --  
5 especially where now we have -- now we're getting into  
6 iPads and stuff like that. And so, you know, the  
7 technology is there. Let us, let us use it, and then  
8 let the authority have the jurisdiction and, um, you  
9 know, the industry, um, set the standard of where it  
10 needs to be as far as technical terms, um, and let it  
11 fall on the people in the field to adjust their --

12 Nielsen: So kind of back to one of my previous questions. Is  
13 this something we can do as the state and industry  
14 together? Because again, you know, a lot of these,  
15 uh, ideas kind of start leaning towards creating more  
16 regulations technically --

17 Bunney: Right.

18 Nielsen: -- you know, because now we got to figure out first  
19 year, second year --

20 Bunney: Right.

21 Nielsen: -- who's doing what and, you know, commercial,  
22 noncommercial. But do you think that maybe something  
23 as simple as, you know -- and I'm going to kind of  
24 jump ahead -- going to a one-year apprentice  
25 registration again and something as simple as when you



1 renew we put a one or a two, three, four on the end of  
2 that card. And so it's a simple, you know -- we don't  
3 have to create a new rule that says well a second year  
4 can do this, third year can do that. But kind of just  
5 again opening the door until we have to slam it shut  
6 that okay we go out there as a second year is by  
7 himself or not by himself, however, you know. But --

8 Bunney: Yeah, yeah.

9 Nielsen: -- do you think, do you think we all could regulate  
10 ourselves without actually having to write it down  
11 when it comes to that?

12 Bunney: Uh, that's a tough que- -- I mean yes and no.

13 Male 5: That's like giving a guy --

14 (Crosstalk)

15 Bunney: Yeah. Yes and no. Like I said, I mean the guys that  
16 are going to not listen to it they don't care if it's  
17 in there or not but for most of us whether that be --  
18 I think we need to have -- we have to have something  
19 to protect the consumer, you know, at the end of the  
20 day, health and safety. I mean that's ultimately what  
21 it boils down to, and I think it does need to be  
22 spelled out. It could be simple. I mean it doesn't  
23 necessarily have to be commercial or residential but  
24 just put two years. You know what I mean. And have  
25 to be with my cellphone or whatever and, you know,

1 can't be upriver and no contact, just, you know, stuff  
2 like that. So especially if they show up and your  
3 guy's not even licensed or something.

4 Millstein: I'm Leo with Mike's Mechanical out of Lewiston. Um,  
5 I kind of agree with the one, two, three, four on the  
6 apprenticeship card because breaking it between  
7 residential and commercial I don't think is  
8 necessarily true 'cause everyone always thinks that  
9 residential is easier than commercial, but we all know  
10 that sometimes you get into a, you know, a custom home  
11 and that custom home could be twice as complicated as  
12 running a straight line of copper. And I would trust  
13 a second year apprentice to run that straight line of  
14 copper over him roughing in someone's half million  
15 dollar home, you know. And so I think the simplest  
16 way is to break it down with the one, two, three, four  
17 and then coming off of that a sliding scale of how  
18 they should be -- and then it's going to be the  
19 contractor and the journeyman that's going to really  
20 know it because I know that when I'm running guys  
21 there's guys that are a second year apprentice that I  
22 trust to do a heck of a lot more than some guys that  
23 are actually journeymen. So you know, it's --

24 Nielsen: Sure, sure.

25 Millstein: -- it's gonna be ultimately up to the, the



1 contractor. But I think if we gave a, a basis for it  
2 and then that way if an inspector came out and it was  
3 just a horrible looking situation, he'd have something  
4 in his back pocket too to say, hey, you know, we need  
5 to, you know, do something about this, so.

6 Nielsen: Okay. Thanks.

7 Millstein: Yep.

8 Rotella: John Rotella, K & G Construction. Um, with it, you  
9 know, for me personally, I was just getting into my  
10 third year, and I was pretty much out there by myself,  
11 um, doing a lot of residential, doing some commercial.  
12 I mean I had phone calls at all times to journeymen,  
13 had good training and all that.

14

15 And I've talked to inspectors on it when they knew  
16 that I was just an apprentice there by myself during  
17 the inspection, and one thing that I've gotten that's  
18 input from inspectors is the fact that they, they know  
19 their contractors. They know their -- the workers.  
20 They know apprentices. They know the journeymen.

21

22 When they're out there and they're seeing just time  
23 after time after time they're having to fail jobs they  
24 start looking at that contractor and they start  
25 putting the pressure on them saying, look, I know





1 obviously you are having apprentice do this. I am  
2 tired. This is putting twice the work on an inspector  
3 to go back out there and re-inspect. And so they  
4 start coming down on them harder than the guys who  
5 they know these guys are doing it the right way.

6  
7 So they, you know, kind of with the allowing them to  
8 be out there on their own I think, you know, we all  
9 are going to rely on the contractors, and I think the  
10 inspectors are relying on us contractors. And I think  
11 they should have it to where they could start kind of  
12 doing like a red flag type deal where if they see  
13 numerous times with the contractor then that  
14 contractor gets put on a deal where no you're back to  
15 100 percent out there with them.

16  
17 Um, but at the same time, you know, with the each year  
18 I feel like there could be something where like second  
19 year you're 75 percent, third year you're 50 percent,  
20 fourth year you're 25 percent if you're going to put  
21 it down into words in there.

22 Nielsen: Okay. I appreciate that. Thanks. So that kind of  
23 rolls right into a five-year card versus a one-year  
24 card. Currently we have a five-year apprenticeship  
25 registration. Electrical and HVAC has gone back --

1 'cause everybody was at five years at one time so  
2 they've rolled back to one year. Along with this  
3 discussion, does anybody see any reason not to go to a  
4 one-year registration?

5 Lowe: Why would we want to?

6 Nielsen: Come on up, Howard, so you're not constantly yelling  
7 back there.

8 Lowe: John, why would we want to go to a one-year  
9 registration?

10 Nielsen: That's a good question because there has been  
11 discussions in previous meetings that, one, it would  
12 actually show a more accurate count of how many  
13 apprentices we have in the trade as compared to when  
14 you get a five-year card. Then I head to South  
15 Dakota, North Dakota and start driving an oil rig, and  
16 but for the next four and a half years they're  
17 counting me as an apprentice. Um, you know, the cost  
18 -- there's not really any cost benefit there as far as  
19 because if it did go to a one year we'd just divide it  
20 by five and it'd be a 10-year registration. So but  
21 it's just been asked out there, you know, what is the  
22 benefit of a five year?

23 Lowe: What is the year that you register? The one, one-year  
24 registration, what year did you register?

25 Nielsen: The first year.

1 Lowe: Then you're done.

2 Male 4: No, each year.

3 (Crosstalk)

4 Nielsen: Yeah. You renew each year. Yes.

5 Male 6: Instead of one five year you'd have five one years.

6 Lowe: Right.

7 Nielsen: Or no. You'd have 20 if you just kept, you know --

8 Lowe: Right.

9 Nielsen: -- if you didn't turn out and you just wanted to keep  
10 working.

11 Lowe: Exactly.

12 Krels: Joe Krels, Local 44 again. Um, I kinda like the one-  
13 year thing. I mean that's how Washington does it.  
14 Um, I do think it would help the, the state keep track  
15 of the apprentices. Um, maybe though -- I, I do know  
16 in Washington a lot of times we talked about it at  
17 some point yesterday about a little if a guy forgets  
18 to renew it and he's working he might lose out on some  
19 hours, and that's the last thing we want to do is have  
20 a guy lose out on hours because he forgot to renew a  
21 card three days later or, you know, whatever. Um, so  
22 there was talk about maybe a grace period.

23

24 Or, um, maybe something else I was thinking of maybe

25 there could also be an option for a guy to buy five



1 years at a time if he wanted to. You know, I mean one  
2 of the, one of the thoughts was, you know, we just  
3 want to try a guy out. We're going to make him buy a  
4 card for five years and then two weeks later he said I  
5 didn't like it. Well if he buys the first year and he  
6 decides he likes it, maybe he says I want to buy four  
7 years now because this is what I'm going to do, and I  
8 don't want to lose out on one hour that I could  
9 potentially get.

10  
11 So I think that might be more cost for the state to,  
12 to do, um, but if we're going to go to the -- or go to  
13 a ratio thing with where your card says what year you  
14 are, maybe just every year with a grace period for  
15 somebody.

16  
17 Um, I guess my other question would be if it went to a  
18 one year would there be a renewal notification sent  
19 out to each individual and what would the added cost  
20 on your part be for that? Because if there's no  
21 renewal, I can guarantee you somebody's going to  
22 forget to renew it and that's going to be at a cost on  
23 the, on the state to do that. Maybe the cost could go  
24 up to 15 bucks a year. Washington is 47.50 a year.  
25 If you can't afford 15 bucks a year or 10 bucks a

1 year, it's probably not what you want to do for, you  
2 know, the rest of your life, so.

3 Nielsen: Joe, I, I appreciate that. And to answer your  
4 question, word on the street is even with your current  
5 licenses we send out a reminder, at least an email.  
6 But again, you know, if you don't update your email,  
7 you're not going to get it. And you know, but the --  
8 those are good points, and those are things we can  
9 look into. And as we discuss all of this, again it's  
10 at a 30,000-foot level, you know. We don't have the -  
11 - you know, if somebody comes up with a great idea, we  
12 still need to iron out the details and get it all  
13 figured out. So you know, this is all stuff we have  
14 to look into and kinda play out and see where it goes,  
15 but keep that in mind too that --

16 Hewitt: Just a quick thought on that last comment. This is  
17 Jacob. Um, I like the idea of having a one-year card.  
18 I, I like that. I, I licensed in Washington  
19 originally. That's the way it was. Um, but I also  
20 like the idea of can you prepay. Maybe instead of  
21 having the -- you know, can you go one year and then  
22 buy the five years? Could you just go your one year,  
23 say hey I like this, I'm just going to prepay the next  
24 four years and they'll automatically send my renewal?  
25 So they'll still be one-year cards, but it's prepaid



1 and you don't have to worry about remembering to renew  
2 at the end of each year. Could that be an option?

3 Nielsen: It's all stuff we can look into.

4 Lowe: I also like that idea. I, I think that's wonderful  
5 but --

6 Nielsen: Thanks for coming up and saying that.

7 Lowe: You're welcome. But at the same time do we need to  
8 register apprentices at all?

9 Nielsen: That was going to be our next question.

10 Lowe: If we, if we can, if we can track hours --

11 Nielsen: My notes are right there, Howard.

12 Lowe: Oh, I'll just take a look at them. No. Really, if we  
13 can -- and I'm, I'm not saying I'm advocating this or  
14 anything. I know it's just an idea that's out there.  
15 If we can, if we can, uh, not register apprentices if  
16 we're tracking them through their W-2s as long as  
17 we're fully supervised. If we have to have constant  
18 supervision, then what's the need for apprentice  
19 registration? You prove your hours. When you've got  
20 your hours and you take your test if you've got your  
21 apprenticeship school done.

22 Nielsen: Anybody --

23 Male 5: Can I ask a question?

24 Nielsen: Oh, go ahead.

25 Lowe: To me?

1 Male 5: What's the difference between doing that and what  
2 we're doing right now and, and where we're waiting  
3 five, we're waiting five years for them to turn all  
4 their stuff in anyways?

5 Lowe: Oh, money, paperwork. Yeah. You're processing less  
6 paperwork. It's less burden on the, on the  
7 apprentices. It's less burden on the employers. But  
8 ultimately their hours would have to be tracked. You  
9 have to have your, your hours in. You have to have  
10 your apprenticeship school in. And I -- I've taught  
11 school for a lot of years, and I've had one or two  
12 people that have even started or gone very far. I  
13 think this last year I had a guy that made it through  
14 his first and part of his second year without a job.  
15 And he was a phlebotomist and he was -- but he toughed  
16 it out. Ended up with a plumbing job and he's still a  
17 plumber, but most of the time if a guy is sticking it  
18 out in apprenticeship school, he's working for  
19 somebody. Um, whether it's full time or not who knows  
20 until his hours are approved, but he can prove that  
21 off payroll records, so.

22 Nielsen: All right. Thank you, Howard.

23 Lowe: Just a thought.

24 Nielsen: So that rolls into the next topic. How does anybody  
25 feel, you know, for or against that? And I know some

1           -- there's some people here that might not feel the  
2           same way. But, you know, because it has been  
3           discussed and, you know, some of the arguments are,  
4           you know, right now you can go to school and not have  
5           to work or be registered, and you can be registered  
6           and work and not have to go to school. But in the end  
7           when you come to the Division you have to show both  
8           and verify to us. And, you know, I don't know. I'll  
9           give you a rough percentage. But most of the time an  
10          apprentice isn't coming in and turning in his hours  
11          every year and every -- you know, they're waiting 'til  
12          the end and they bring it all in.

13  
14          So does anybody --is anybody opposed, you know,  
15          opposed to the thought of an apprentice not needing  
16          the card from the Division? The program still stays,  
17          just the card.

18   Millstein: Leo with Mike's again. I guess my only question for  
19                  that is more of a clarification would be so they'd  
20                  still be a registered apprentice. They just wouldn't  
21                  be holding the card itself.

22   Nielsen: They would not be registered.

23   Millstein: So would other states see that? So if you were  
24                  working in Idaho and you're collecting all your Idaho  
25                  hours and then you went to get your Washington



1 journeyman's license or whatever it was and you have  
2 to show them that you were working in a state that  
3 they reciprocate with, would they see those hours?

4 Nielsen: That would be up to Washington how they'd verify it.  
5 But I know -- and I shouldn't say I know. I believe  
6 right now without being in the union you can work and  
7 show 16 hours of CEUs each year 'til you hit your  
8 four. Then you can test.

9 Millstein: Okay.

10 Nielsen: So you know, they -- I don't know how they're  
11 verifying it, but again, if an Idaho person wasn't  
12 registered with the Division, in the end he has to  
13 prove to us the schooling and the hours.

14 Millstein: Right.

15 Nielsen: He just wouldn't be registered.

16 Millstein: I guess that's where I would be worried though as  
17 the reciprocation to other states and how they'd see  
18 it, you know, like Oreg- -- especially when you're on  
19 the border of Washington and Oregon and other places.  
20 You know, we wouldn't --

21 Nielsen: Well to answer your question or --

22 Millstein: Yeah.

23 Nielsen: -- statement there, we do Oregon and Montana.  
24 There's, you know, pretty -- if you've tested in those  
25 two states and got your card --



1 Millstein: Right.

2 Nielsen: -- we'd reciprocate. Washington we make them prove  
3 they did the same amount of schooling.

4 Millstein: I mean the other --

5 Nielsen: They got 566 hours.

6 Millstein: I guess I'm, I'm talking about the other way for if  
7 most your apprenticeship's in Idaho and you're trying  
8 to reciprocate into Washington.

9 Nielsen: And I don't -- that would be --

10 Millstein: Right.

11 Nielsen: -- up to the other state to --

12 Millstein: Right.

13 Nielsen: -- yay or nay it.

14 Millstein: Right.

15 Nielsen: But, you know, real quick. The other day I was just  
16 going through here, you know, and trying to get ahead  
17 of this ZBR process. You know, Alaska it's not a  
18 registration, but you have to show a certificate of  
19 fitness. So it's a little paperwork, but it's not an  
20 actual registration. Arizona is no registration.  
21 Arkansas is no registration. Does anybody want to  
22 guess if California registers apprentices? You know,  
23 so there's -- that's just a few of them, so. Come up.

24 Krels: Um, Joe Krels again. I'm an advocate for  
25 registration. I think it kind of falls into that, um,

1           how are you going to keep track of who's a second or  
2           third year apprentice and they're working by  
3           themselves if they're not registered?

4 Nielsen: Right.

5 Krels: Um, I think if you're going to go that route, you have  
6           to keep registering them. Um, I think it, it gives  
7           them something to belong to. It gives them some stake  
8           in the game. Let's know they're actually an  
9           apprentice. Um, something to be proud of to be honest  
10          with you. Just thinking. And I don't think  
11          Washington would reciprocate. I think that's a,  
12          that's a barrier. If, if, if Washington won't  
13          reciprocate 'cause you weren't registered in Idaho,  
14          that's a barrier for a lot of Idaho residents that  
15          work in Washington, so.

16 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

17 Gray: Jesse Gray, Local 44. Uh, so my question kinda here  
18          maybe is, uh, if, if they're not registered, uh, how  
19          does an inspector know -- you know, if you can't show  
20          proof of a card that you're the plumber, hell you can  
21          have anybody out there doing that work at that point?  
22          So I wonder if having that registration or that card  
23          in hand or in the pocket, uh, to be able to show proof  
24          that they are who they say they are. Otherwise, you  
25          get whoever out there doing the job and, and the



1 shitty contractors will -- they'll, they'll utilize  
2 those guys, and again that takes away from our craft.  
3 So that's why I was thinking about that.

4 Nielsen: Okay. Sure.

5 Hewitt: It's Jacob Hewitt. And I would agree with, uh, those  
6 last two comments. Um, I think unfortunately when you  
7 have these kind of meetings they're good, but they  
8 draw the people that want to do what's right in the  
9 first place and all the other contractors out there  
10 that are trying to skirt under the system aren't going  
11 to be at meetings like this. So I think you have to  
12 have a certain amount of rules and regulations, um,  
13 that we're all going to live by anyways, but it kind  
14 of forces the other guys to live by. So to force them  
15 to be able to prove -- to show that card yeah I'm  
16 trying to do what's right is just another step to be  
17 able to, to do that.

18 Nielsen: So just to play devil's advocate here, are you saying  
19 currently everybody is playing by the rules with all  
20 the rules we currently have and --

21 Hewitt: No.

22 Nielsen: -- there's no penalties and --

23 Hewitt: No.

24 Nielsen: -- you know, they're not out there unlicensed.

25 They're not out there unsupervised.

1 Hewitt: No. There's, there's -- the comment was already made.  
2 There's always going to be that guy that doesn't  
3 follow the rules, but if you don't have the rules in  
4 the first place, there's going to be that many more  
5 guys that don't --

6 Nielsen: No.

7 Hewitt: -- follow the rules.

8 Nielsen: I, I appreciate that.

9 Hewitt: Yeah.

10 Nielsen: And again, I'm not advocating for it.

11 Hewitt: Yeah. No. I understand you. I know.

12 Nielsen: You know, kind of the comparison. We can write all  
13 the rules and regulations in the world we want. We're  
14 still going to have those bad players. But it would  
15 roll back into as we lessen barriers we increase the  
16 civil penalties and, you know, the -- that side of it  
17 also.

18 Hewitt: Yeah. But it also, it also lessens the ability to  
19 enforce those I guess is what I'm saying.

20 Nielsen: Yeah. Okay.

21 Hewitt: Yeah.

22 Nielsen: I appreciate it.

23 Rotella: John Rotella. Um, just one thing for my own personal  
24 experience with it is with getting an actual  
25 apprenticeship card it shows commitment. So I get

1           lots of guys working for this construction company who  
2           are on the construction side who tell me I want to be  
3           a plumber. It's like okay. You tell them what  
4           they've got to do. Get an apprenticeship card, do the  
5           four years of school, 8,000 hours. You start telling  
6           them all that, and they start kinda well I just want  
7           to learn how to plumb. I don't care about the rest of  
8           that stuff. And so --

9   Male 6:   That's your next contractor.

10   Rotella:  As the, as the, the employer and I've got to hire  
11           these guys, it helps me make my decisions when a guy's  
12           more committed and willing to pay the \$50 and get his  
13           apprenticeship card and do the schooling. And so I'm  
14           kinda for the actually having the apprenticeship cards  
15           just because it shows me commitment in my employees.

16   Nielsen:  Thanks. Come on up. I got to about cover everybody.

17   Dudra:    Um, I'm Dakota with Mike's Mechanical. Uh, I guess  
18           I'd like to just kind of cover base with eliminating  
19           it. I feel like you would eliminate the option of  
20           regulating the percentage of, you know, supervision.  
21           Not only that, I don't really know how you'd regulate  
22           that in the first place. But I guess, you know, with  
23           that my question is: is every two years not working  
24           really?

25   Nielsen:  Well currently there isn't any two-year requirement.



1           Yeah.

2   Dudra:    Oh, it's very five.  I gotcha.

3   Nielsen:  And, and to your point though, I mean we can't have  
4           both.  Either, you know, there's an apprentice  
5           registration and we work on, you know, third year say  
6           being able to do something on their own.  But yeah,  
7           those two cannot coexist --

8   Dudra:    Right.

9   Nielsen:  -- as far as 'cause like you said we wouldn't have any  
10           way to track them so it would be --

11   Dudra:    Right.  Yeah.

12   Nielsen:  -- impossible.  Anybody else on that topic?  So one  
13           more on apprenticeship.  Currently an out-of-state  
14           person could come into Idaho, verify that they worked  
15           legally in that state eight years as an apprentice,  
16           and can sit for the journeyman's exam.

17   Lowe:     Eight years?

18   Nielsen:  Yes.  How do you guys feel?  Registration stays in  
19           place whether it's one year, five years, but an Idaho  
20           person works eight years and decides they can take the  
21           journeyman exam.  Should they be afforded that option?

22   Millstein: Uh, Leo with Mike's.  Um, so to make sure I'm  
23           understanding it right, they wouldn't be going to  
24           school.  They would just be eight years on the job.

25   Nielsen:  Correct.

1 Millstein: Yeah. I would, I would probably say no because I  
2 think the apprenticeship goes really hand-in-hand with  
3 on-the-job training and the book training. Um, I know  
4 that when you're going through it you don't think that  
5 that's true. But there's been plenty of times when I  
6 was learning stuff in school that the journeyman I was  
7 learning from didn't have the time of day to talk that  
8 through with me, and then later on in my journeyman  
9 career that popped up and I was able to solve the  
10 problem because of what I learned in school. And so I  
11 think that happens a lot. And I've, I've worked  
12 around a lot of guys that have had a lot of on-the-job  
13 training with no school, and I've always -- I've  
14 noticed a trend that the guys that have gone to school  
15 are just better mechanics and that's just my  
16 experience. The guys that have just had the on-the-  
17 job training there's always something missing.

18 Nielsen: So in your opinion does that create then a barrier for  
19 the Idaho guys though because we're not taking away  
20 the four years of -- you know, four years and four  
21 years. We're just saying you can do it in four years  
22 or you can keep working and then after a certain point  
23 you could sit for the exam.

24 Millstein: So --

25 Nielsen: Where we allow any other state to come in --



1 Millstein: Sure.

2 Nielsen: -- and do it.

3 Millstein: Well I think maybe, maybe the right thing to do  
4 would be have someone that came from another state to  
5 have to go through the four years of school if they  
6 didn't go through school in the other state I guess.

7 Nielsen: But a lot of states don't have a program.

8 Millstein: Oh, yeah. I don't know. I see --

9 Nielsen: And again --

10 Millstein: Yeah, yeah.

11 Nielsen: -- viewing it all at 30,000 --

12 Millstein: Yeah, yeah. Okay.

13 Hewitt: Jacob Hewitt. So having licensed in a state that  
14 doesn't have schooling, Washington, um, I actually  
15 have my reciprocal license in Idaho. Um, I'm going to  
16 play the other side of the coin from that and just  
17 give you a for instance. I've been plumbing for 26  
18 years, had my journeyman card before I turned 21. Um,  
19 a few of you guys here know me. I consider myself a  
20 decent plumber.

21 Lowe: Damn right.

22 Hewitt: Never, never went to one day of schooling. Um, my son  
23 wanted to be a plumber, excellent mechanic. I mean  
24 the kid figured out how concrete trucks worked when he  
25 was six years old just from watching it. Has learning

1 disabilities. Went through -- I think Howard taught  
2 him for a few, uh, classes. Went through one year of  
3 schooling, couldn't do the schooling. Decided you  
4 know what, plumbing's not for me 'cause I can't do the  
5 schooling.

6  
7 I looked into moving to Oregon at one point in my  
8 career. I had plumbed for 20 years, didn't have any  
9 schooling. They told me nope you can't plumb in our  
10 state until you go through four years of schooling.  
11 Guess I'm not going to be a plumber there. So I think  
12 by requiring the schooling no matter what we may stop  
13 some qualified plumbers from plumbing in our state  
14 where we already have a workforce shortage, and it is  
15 really hard to find good plumbers. So just the  
16 flipside of that coin.

17  
18 I, I, I mean I see the value in schooling and I see  
19 the value of requiring it to a point, but just flat-  
20 out requiring the schooling without any alternatives I  
21 think could be a drawback.

22 Nielsen: Okay. Thank you.

23 Krels: Joe Krels again, Local 44. Uh, maybe CEUs, um,  
24 continuing education of somebody that maybe didn't go  
25 through school maybe they would have to do so many

1 hours of some continuing education online or, or reach  
2 out to, you know, some kind of a training entity. Um,  
3 I think it would just help the industry. You know, I  
4 mean there's a lot of people out there that can do a  
5 good job when you put a screwdriver in their hand but  
6 -- or, or a plumbing fitting, but if they don't know  
7 the code, it's going to cost the contractor and  
8 inevitably it's going to cost of the consumer more  
9 money 'cause he's going to have to up his bid because  
10 that's what he's, you know -- just --

11 Nielsen: I appreciate it.

12 Lowe: Howard Lowe. So having 20, close to 20 years as an  
13 instructor, uh, we've had students that were marginal.  
14 We've had students that were exceptional. How that  
15 transfers to how they perform in the field doesn't  
16 necessarily go hand-in-hand. Uh, Jacob, he's one of  
17 the finest plumbers I've ever had the privilege to  
18 inspect. No doubt about it. He's living proof that  
19 no you don't have to go to school to, to be able to  
20 excel at this. But we try and base this on an  
21 average, you know.

22  
23 Um, just because somebody can't get through school or  
24 pass every single thing doesn't mean that some of it  
25 doesn't soak in. I think it's a good requirement. We

1 don't let you graduate high school without having to  
2 go through 12 grades and hopefully passing, uh,  
3 whether you get great at it or not, maybe so, maybe  
4 not.

5  
6 Um, having, having said that and talking about  
7 apprentices or somebody that has eight years in the  
8 trade coming up and no you've got eight years, you can  
9 test, you're great, uh, Leo and I have had the  
10 privilege of enjoying a, a fellow that was out of the  
11 state that's to the southwest of us, um, with 25 years  
12 as a journeyman, a proven card that second, first year  
13 apprentices plumb circles around him. So that's,  
14 that's normal, a testament to how good a plumber you  
15 are.

16  
17 Uh, I think sometimes you have to find the best answer  
18 at the person that's paying them. Are they getting  
19 their money's worth? Um, is he performing for them?  
20 So if somebody comes in with the requirements for the  
21 state that they came from -- we got 50 states. They  
22 all have some degree of licensing I would think, if  
23 not most of them do. If you come to Idaho with a  
24 journeyman's card, I think you should be able to test.  
25 If you come with an apprentice card, I think you



1 probably ought to join our program and at least see if  
2 you can pass fourth year, something like that. I  
3 don't know the answer. I'll never know the answer.  
4 It's beyond me.

5  
6 But I, I think just to say that because you've been  
7 doing it for eight years and you can prove it on paper  
8 I think that's, uh, probably getting yourself into a  
9 recipe for a journeyman in three months he's going to  
10 be a contractor out there that cannot serve the safety  
11 of the people.

12 Nielsen: So Howard, as far as that goes, do you feel that  
13 everybo- -- everyone of us that holds a journeyman's  
14 card that went through school, passed the practical,  
15 passed the exam are just outstanding plumbers?

16 Lowe: Oh no. I'm living proof. I'm a piss-poor plumber.  
17 Ask any of these guys.

18 Nielsen: And the, and the next question though would be why  
19 wouldn't you give somebody that path? Again, they'd  
20 have to pass the exam to be a journeyman.

21 Lowe: The exam does- -- can they pass a practical? Do they  
22 have a pass a practical?

23 Nielsen: Yes, they would.

24 Lowe: Okay.

25 Nielsen: And I'm just, you know --

1 Lowe: I don't know. They, they couldn't convince they state  
2 they were from that they were qualified to be a  
3 journeyman and all of a sudden they can come here and  
4 test.

5 Nielsen: But I'm saying in Idaho --

6 Lowe: And why would --

7 (Crosstalk)

8 Nielsen: -- you know, apprenticeship starts from day one --

9 Lowe: Without going to school?

10 Nielsen: Yes.

11 Lowe: No. He's got to complete four years of school.

12 Nielsen: Okay.

13 Lowe: Yeah. I love it. I get paid by the student.

14 Male 4: He's saying he's got to keep doing a job. That's  
15 right. We're tired. I (inaudible - 01:06:55).

16 Nielsen: Did you want to come up?

17 Male 4: No, I'm -- no.

18 Nielsen: All right. Well there's just all kinds of good segues  
19 here 'cause the next one is there is all sorts of  
20 discussion on the practical, whether it's necessary,  
21 whether it proves anything. You know, I'll go with  
22 the back in the day when I got my card there were no  
23 labs. You had to go out and do a house. You know,  
24 times change. We get the boom and what, '06, '04,  
25 '06, you know, nobody had time to send one apprentice

1 out there to do a house, to get a practical so then  
2 the labs were created. Since then most people, you  
3 know, it's convenient. There might be a cost to it,  
4 you know, depending on the school. Do you guys feel  
5 that the cost-to-benefit and the life safety issues,  
6 issues of it that a person should have to pass a  
7 practical to get their journeyman's card?

8 Hewitt: They should absolutely have to.

9 Nielsen: All right. Show of hands. One, two, three, four,  
10 five, six, seven, eight. Did I count all? Six,  
11 seven, eight. Yep. All right. So another issue and  
12 rule -- and I'll say an issue because I have to deal  
13 with it more than I'd like to say. Guy finishes four  
14 years of school and there's four years of OJT. He  
15 sends in an application to us. The minute we get that  
16 application he's got six months to take the test. If  
17 he doesn't, he's got to go back to fourth year. How  
18 does anybody feel about that rule? Is that a barrier?

19  
20 I mean realistically should we be making somebody go  
21 back to fourth year six months after they got out just  
22 because of, you know, in today's world everything's  
23 Covid. I get more excuses for Covid which, you know,  
24 legit, but even without Covid there's always  
25 something. Should it be the Division's policy to say

1 no we just put a mandatory six months on here? You  
2 know, any thoughts on that?

3 Lowe: Just went through this. The first time that I've ever  
4 had to go through it. I just went through it. And  
5 that was with an outstanding student, and he went down  
6 and blew his test for whatever reason. Who knows?  
7 Um, and then got his letter, misread his letter,  
8 thought it said he had to wait six months and it was  
9 saying he had to take it within six months, didn't get  
10 it done. Guess what he got to do. Repeat fourth  
11 year, do a refresher on fourth year. So we get  
12 through that.

13  
14 Um, I guess I don't understand the reasoning for  
15 you've got six months to do it, six months, a year,  
16 ever. You know, you completed the school. You've got  
17 your time. Uh, but maybe, maybe give him six months  
18 to take their first test but who cares when they take  
19 the next one if they wait six months, a year? I don't  
20 -- I guess I don't understand why we're delineating  
21 this six-month line. What difference does it make  
22 when he takes the test or doesn't? Does he pass/fail?

23 Nielsen: Well and this is all part of this ZBR process because  
24 I've been -- I got my card in '98, been doing this  
25 since '04 and, and I couldn't tell you how long that



1 rule's been.

2 Lowe: I, I don't either.

3 Nielsen: You know, so as we look at this I mean realistically,  
4 you know, I'm sure the reason was, you know, they got  
5 to be in the training. They got to take the  
6 journeyman's card and get out. But realistically, you  
7 know, should they be penalized for not taking their  
8 exam and even passing it? I mean it's 75 bucks a pop  
9 to take the journeyman's exam.

10 Lowe: Right. Take a giant leap and --

11 Nielsen: Should the, should the Division worry about they keep  
12 scratching a check for \$75 and --

13 Lowe: No.

14 Nielsen: -- to get not a money grub but if they want that card  
15 bad enough?

16 Lowe: Well and really they can go down and take it every  
17 week if they can get the paperwork processed fast  
18 enough.

19 Nielsen: Yes.

20 Lowe: But if they wait six months, you're out of luck.  
21 You've got to --

22 Nielsen: If they don't pass within six months --

23 Lowe: Right. If you don't pass within six months, you've  
24 got to take it again. And if this -- if he hadn't  
25 misread his letter, I wouldn't even know this rule

1           existed because I just never ran into it before.

2 Nielsen: And it does happen quite a bit.

3 Lowe:     Yeah. And no. And, and when it happened, as you  
4           probably know, I advocated to do anything, let him go  
5           take his fricking test. He's a good plumber. I know  
6           that. Uh, he did well in school. He just blew a  
7           test. But he didn't get that done in six months, but  
8           I understand it. It's the rule. If you do it to  
9           somebody, you got to do it to everybody, so it's the  
10          way it is. But no. I don't, I don't, I don't see the  
11          -- if somebody can give me the reasoning in it, the  
12          real logic in it, then I'd probably be, um, inclined  
13          to agree. But I just don't see why.

14 Nielsen: And so since you're up here, Howard, I know you're  
15          going to talk on this one. Currently you're -- you  
16          let your journeyman or your contractor expire. You  
17          have two years to renew it. If it closes after those  
18          two years, you have to test to get your license back.  
19          How do you feel about that rule?

20 Lowe:     I guess I'd have to give that some thought, but just  
21          off the cuff I'd say -- I don't know what I'd say off  
22          the cuff. I, I guess if you were out of the program  
23          that long -- no, you ought to just be able to renew  
24          your license. If you ever had it, you should just be  
25          able to get it back. Uh, my wife, she -- she's a

1 nursing home administrator, and she doesn't pay  
2 whatever we pay for contractor, uh, licensing. She  
3 pays hundreds of dollars, and she hasn't been an  
4 administrator for eight or 10 years now. But she  
5 keeps that renewed, and it costs her like \$750 every  
6 year or she can put it in limbo which costs money and  
7 it can sit there but within a certain amount of time  
8 she needs to keep that going away. So I see it from  
9 that standpoint. She's, you know, been an  
10 administrator for 20 years. She's not working in the  
11 trade. Should she be able to put her license as  
12 inactive and then be able to go in and pay the fees  
13 and renew it as it comes back up or is needed? I, I  
14 think that's fair. Uh, what the costs are to keep  
15 those people on the books maybe that's the driving  
16 force. Uh, but, uh, to me it's just -- it's a, it's a  
17 name in a computer program that doesn't cost anybody  
18 anything once it's there I don't think.

19 Nielsen: Okay. Thank you.

20 Hewitt: Can I come up?

21 Nielsen: Sure.

22 Hewitt: On this same topic. Jacob Hewitt. Um, I understand  
23 sort of the reasoning behind having to retest. I  
24 don't think once your license lapses for what is it,  
25 two years --

1 Nielsen: Yes.

2 Hewitt: -- I don't understand having to completely retest  
3 because you haven't lost all that information. I  
4 think what's happened is you haven't kept up on your  
5 continuing education and kept current on the code for  
6 those two years. I do think there should be a  
7 requirement to go say you've been out of it two years,  
8 you've lost out on 32 hours of continuing -- am I  
9 doing my math right -- of continuing education. I  
10 think you should be required to catch up on your  
11 continuing education for what time you've missed to be  
12 able to get your license back. I don't agree with  
13 having to completely retest.

14 Nielsen: So I'm asking then what's the difference between --  
15 they let their license expire but on the contractor  
16 side you can put it inactive and keep it there  
17 forever. You know, you could go 20 -- we'll do easy  
18 math -- 21 years you'd have to show seven license  
19 cycles of CEUs to reactivate it.

20 Hewitt: Yeah.

21 Nielsen: You know, would that be an option, you know --

22 Hewitt: Yeah. I think it would --

23 Nielsen: -- instead of retesting --

24 Hewitt: Yeah. I think it would --

25 Nielsen: -- for a journeyman also?

1 Hewitt: I think it would go both ways. I think, I think as  
2 long as you could get the, the required continuing  
3 education. I think -- I don't know. There would have  
4 to be some sort of -- I don't know how you'd do it,  
5 but there has to be some sort of regulation because I  
6 can go online and click, click, click and get my  
7 continuing education. It doesn't prove that I learned  
8 anything.

9 Nielsen: I guess let me form another wa- -- way, another  
10 question. Do you think somebody should be punished --  
11 they've already showed competency in everything else.  
12 They just didn't renew their license, so they have to  
13 retest. I guess what would be the reason for it in  
14 your opinion?

15 Hewitt: Well having to retest? I don't know. That's a tough  
16 one because I think once you've passed that test  
17 you've, you've proven that you know the information.

18 Nielsen: Would you see it as a life safety issue? 'Cause you  
19 know, the person let his -- would, would it be, you  
20 know, safer for industry and the public if a guy lets  
21 it go for three years, he retests. Is there any  
22 amount of safety difference between somebody just come  
23 in and then pay, you know, say we've sent -- you've  
24 paid 200 bucks if it expires?

25 Hewitt: I don't know. I guess I'd have to think about that

1 'cause I think you need to prove that you still know  
2 what you're doing, but I, I don't know that it's --  
3 that a complete retest would be required for that.  
4 Could there be some sort of I guess you should say  
5 reentrance exam or something like that, like a  
6 modified test just to show --

7 Nielsen: And, and that's what we're here to --

8 Hewitt: -- what that might be. Yeah.

9 Nielsen: -- you know, get all the options. Fresh thoughts.

10 Male 7: So this is kind off subject of plumbing but within the  
11 subject. So before I became a plumber I was a  
12 certified lumber grader. I am still currently a  
13 certified lumber grader. You don't have to renew it.  
14 You go inactive. And so if I decide to go back to a  
15 mill right now and become a lumber grader again, all I  
16 have to do is let the WWPA know that I want to be a  
17 certified lumber grader again or that I'm grading  
18 lumber again. They have to pa- -- I just have to pass  
19 one inspection with them. So they come in. They'll  
20 go through my lumber. They say okay you still know  
21 it. And then with the just experience of it I don't  
22 think I could go back and pass my first inspection.  
23 Um, there's a lot of rules in it that I don't quite  
24 remember.

25

1           And so kind of I, I think you would need to have some  
2           sort of test just to prove that you remember it or  
3           continuing education or something. That's kind of  
4           what I was thinking as exactly as he was saying. It's  
5           continuing education. Just to refresh yourself with  
6           it 'cause I know if I went back into it very easily  
7           would not be able to do it and yet I am still  
8           technically a certified lumber grader throughout the  
9           rest of my life, so.

10 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

11 Lowe:     So I just thought of hypothetical situation and  
12           because you said 21 years. So let's throw out a  
13           hypothetical situation. A guy gets 65 years old.  
14           He's a contractor, journeyman. And he's retired, and  
15           he lets his licensing go. Twenty years later he's  
16           sitting around doing nothing and say his grandson or  
17           his neighbor are you a plumbing contractor? Well  
18           let's just renew this thing. Okay. Well here's an  
19           80-year-old guy that's been out of the trade for 20  
20           years. Maybe his brains are getting a little soft.  
21           Technology is running over, and then all of a sudden  
22           again we're giving a gun to a monkey.

23  
24           So I can see a need for proving competency again. Uh,  
25           two years I think that's ridiculous. Ten years, I



1 don't think that's ridiculous. Um, I, I think, I  
2 think somewhere in the middle there there's a defining  
3 line where yeah you need to prove your competency.  
4 The other thing is, okay, you've stepped out of it for  
5 20 years or 10 years or whatever. There's places  
6 where if you don't register your vehicle for a certain  
7 amount of time you go back and you pay your  
8 registration back. Maybe you catch up your contractor  
9 fees or something like that, uh, either incentive to  
10 maintain that license or, or the need or want enough  
11 to go back and, and get that. But I think it's  
12 important that at some point -- I'm not smart enough  
13 to decide where that point is -- that you do need to  
14 prove that you're still competent in the trades  
15 because the technology changes, memories slip, stuff  
16 like that. I, I, I think it's important.

17 Nielsen: All right.

18 Lowe: Thank you.

19 Nielsen: Thanks, Howard.

20 Gray: Jesse Gray. I'd like to add to that too. I mean  
21 maybe, uh, yeah, CEUs is a good idea, uh, any  
22 amendment changes, you know, go over that and maybe  
23 quiz on something like that over the course of however  
24 long your license has been lapsed because currently  
25 you can't put your plumbing licenses on an inactive





1 state, correct?

2 Nielsen: Not your journeyman.

3 Gray: Contractor you can though.

4 Nielsen: Contractor you can though.

5 Gray: So we get a lot of workers through our local -- uh,  
6 this is just, uh, I've seen this -- uh, that have  
7 worked in Idaho and then they don't come over here and  
8 work for, you know, five, six years, and then they  
9 have to sit for the test again. Um, I guarantee if  
10 you put a number in front of them, they'd pay for it.  
11 And then, you know, piggyback it with CEUs as well as  
12 maybe, uh, any addendums or amendments that were made  
13 to the, to the codebook --

14 Nielsen: All right.

15 Gray: -- for the codes, so.

16 Nielsen: Thank you. We got about four minutes left and I want  
17 to hit on one more topic. There's a couple of them,  
18 but I'm going to throw out continuing education real  
19 quick.

20 Lowe: Can we come back tomorrow?

21 Nielsen: No. I am -- we are going to be on the road. Does --  
22 how do people feel about the current requirements for  
23 eight hours for journeyman and 16 hours for  
24 contractor? Is that enough? Should the journeyman be  
25 eight hours of code? Should it just be -- you know,

1 is there any other options or thoughts out there on  
2 CEUs? Get rid of them, make them more? We're kind of  
3 in the middle of the road here. Uh, electricians do  
4 24 hours in three years and HVAC they require their  
5 apprentice to do eight hours of CEUs or show one year  
6 of completion while they're going through their  
7 apprenticeship to renew their card. So you know,  
8 we're, we're about the middle of the road as far as  
9 hours and everything goes.

10 Male 8: Is it correct for journeyman 16?

11 Nielsen: Current is eight, eight hours.

12 Lowe: Sixteen for a contractor.

13 Nielsen: And those eight hours for journeyman roll towards the  
14 contractors. Everybody good with it?

15 Krels: Just a comment. Um, Joe Krels. Uh, I think, I think,  
16 I think eight hours is probably good. Um, Washington  
17 is a 24, um, and I know it is kind of a barrier for  
18 people that forget. I do know there's a lot of --

19 Nielsen: Do --

20 Krels: Uh, 24 for three now in Washington.

21 Frost: Oh, is it three?

22 Krels: Yeah. It used to be 16 for two. Now it's 24 for  
23 three, 12 has to be code, four has to be electrical  
24 and the other eight can be in whatever category you  
25 want it to be in. Um, I, I think continuing education

1 needs to stay in there, but I don't think making it so  
2 -- it's hard for people to do it anyways when you're  
3 working out there. If you're showing -- I mean if  
4 your license goes inactive, then maybe it -- you  
5 should need some. But if you're working out there  
6 and, and, you know, eight hours you can get the code  
7 updates and learn what they are I think eight hours.

8 Nielsen: All right.

9 Krels: So I don't think they should be eliminated by any  
10 means.

11 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

12 Lowe: So I wasn't a fan of CEUs when they started. Most of  
13 us weren't. But they are what they are. We've, we've  
14 got them now. I think what we have I think works.  
15 It's a little inconvenient when they roll around, but  
16 it comes, it comes with it. I think the thing that  
17 made me the biggest believer in them is I've had a  
18 couple three guys tell me -- and they're all old  
19 plumbers that don't like computers and stuff like that  
20 -- well I got a guy over there in Portland that -- or  
21 wherever it was -- that I get my CEUs through and he  
22 just basically he's taking the test for him or  
23 something. But they don't do anything. They just pay  
24 the money.

25



1 So as long as they -- as long as people can do that,  
2 what's the good of CEUs other than somebody's cashing  
3 in on them? But right now I think it is a good thing  
4 for, uh, especially with the technologies that move  
5 the way they do. Uh, I think it's a good thing that  
6 we have CEUs as a refresher. And it gets a guy back  
7 into his fricking codebook once in a while, and I  
8 think CEUs should be based mostly on code whether  
9 you're a contractor or a journeyman.

10

11 I'm, I'm kind of a firm believer in it now, uh, as  
12 much as I disliked it when it started. You know, I  
13 was always at the school. Why change it? It's been  
14 working. But no, I think CEUs work, but I think we  
15 need to police the people that are giving the CEUs out  
16 a little better than we are now.

17 Nielsen: Okay.

18 Lowe: Thank you.

19 Nielsen: Thank you.

20 Hewitt: I'll second that last comment.

21 Nielsen: Right?

22 Hewitt: I don't know who governs the, the CEU schools and the  
23 tests that are administered online, that kind of  
24 stuff. I can't tell you how many errors I found. I  
25 clicked the right answer and I get it wrong, so I go



1 back and I click the wrong answer and it's right. Um,  
2 I don't, I don't know who -- if there's a certain  
3 board that regulates that or if they have to get those  
4 online classes approved somehow. But, um, I think if  
5 anything needs looked at it's --

6 Nielsen: All right.

7 Hewitt: -- the courses that are being offered.

8 Nielsen: Thanks. And I'll tell on myself. I'm the one that  
9 approves them, you know. But they will -- because  
10 they'll send me samples. You know, you have to have  
11 so many questions. So I don't, I don't read through  
12 them all. But the way -- if you come across stuff  
13 like that, you know, there is a way that you can let  
14 me know, and we can audit them and go in there and  
15 look at it. But if I don't know and everybody's  
16 happy, I don't know and they just keep on keeping on,  
17 so.

18 Hewitt: Well mine started asking to take my CEU test --

19 Nielsen: But it's a little after 3:00. I appreciate you guys  
20 all showing up. Um, again, my card's back there.  
21 Email me if you think of any changes. Anything to do  
22 with the IDAPA rules, codebooks. Uh, feel free to  
23 call me with anything else. And again, thanks for  
24 being here. Appreciate it.

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*Michelle Eaves*

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