

# Pocatello Plumbing Meeting

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1 Nielsen: . . . is here. Brandon's been through about six of  
2 these already by the time we're done here today, so.  
3 My name's John Nielsen. I'm the plumbing program  
4 manager for, uh, the Division of Occupational and  
5 Professional Licenses, formerly DBS. Um, the governor  
6 put all self-governing agencies under one roof and one  
7 name, and that's what we are now. So when you hear  
8 DOPL, that's our new acronym. That's what we're  
9 talking about when it comes to our new agency. We've  
10 got a couple of people here, Tim Frost. He's one of  
11 our bureau chiefs. He does the regulatory side and  
12 he'll run the admin site. Um, when we get going  
13 there, I'll get down to the (inaudible - 00:00:43)  
14 campus if you go to Meridian. And Michelle Bird,  
15 she's our, uh, Bureau Chief for the construction site.  
16 She's the one that'll be keeping an eye on us program  
17 managers. So if you have any issues, these are the  
18 two to go to. In 2020, Governor Little sent out an  
19 executive order that basically says, every agency in  
20 the state is gonna be on a 5 year review cycle. It'll  
21 be a zero based regulation, meaning they want us to  
22 look over the whole rule packet at one time every 5  
23 years. So when you hear of zero based regulations,  
24 it's not we're wiping out all the rules and  
25 regulations. It's that they have to repeal and then



1 replace. And when we replace these rules, we have to  
2 justify everything. So that's what these meetings  
3 today are for. So we're out getting industry's input  
4 on whether they feel the current IDPA rules are too  
5 restrictive. You know, not restrictive enough.  
6 Whatever you have on your mind as it pertains to the  
7 rules. So I've asked that we're recording it. I'll  
8 be taking notes. I'd ask if you have anything to say,  
9 please come up to the podium, state your name, what  
10 license you hold, and go ahead and feel free to  
11 comment on anything. So before I get going into the  
12 rules, does anybody have any kind of general  
13 questions? All right. We'll get going. So currently  
14 in rule, we have our permits fees. And right now, it  
15 says if they -- if you don't do anything in 120 days,  
16 it expires. Obviously, Maddum's (ph) been doing this  
17 for a while, knows we don't follow this. We go one  
18 year. Does anybody have any thoughts on what should  
19 be a drop in date or a time as far as expired permits  
20 go? And the reason I'm asking is because obviously,  
21 if we're not enforcing the current rule, we're gonna  
22 try to get, you know. They have to expire sooner or  
23 later, so the industry's feedback on what you think  
24 might be a good timeline.

25 Martinsen: Brent, from Reid's Plumbing and Heating. I think

1 the one year would be better than the 60 days or  
2 whatever you have down existing.

3 Male 1: I would agree for 1 year is reasonable. 'Cause any  
4 rule --

5 Nielsen: Does anybody have any other thoughts on that? One  
6 year seems to be pretty -- and honestly to me, you  
7 know, it's a good time. All right. Let's see. We're  
8 off to a good start. As far as the fee schedule goes,  
9 'cause everybody knows right now it is based on a  
10 square footage. Has been for I don't know how many  
11 years now. We used to do it by fixture. Is everybody  
12 good with the current way it's structured? Would you  
13 like to see something different? Um, any ideas on any  
14 of it? I know some people that I've talked to would  
15 like to see it go back to, you know, a base fee, and  
16 then fixtures. I think -- yeah. And this is the  
17 residential schedule.

18 Anderson: Dave Anderson, business manager for Plumbers and  
19 Pipefitters here in Pokatello. I know a lot of my  
20 contractors, they go off of fixture because there's  
21 dead rooms, there's dead space, and they are a lot  
22 more competitive, I think, along the -- on the per  
23 fixture. So that's my, my input on it.

24 Nielsen: Dave, thank you. Anybody else? I think and just, you  
25 know, so you know, we're just gathering information.

1 Anything, you know, we talk about here today doesn't  
2 mean it's gonna go into effect come January or  
3 anything else. We will be going to nine different  
4 cities this month and we will present our rule packet  
5 in 2023. So we'll do the negotiated rule process,  
6 more meetings, so again, we're just gathering  
7 information. Don't think I'm gonna leave here and  
8 Monday all of a sudden, you're gonna have a new permit  
9 fee schedule or anything like that. I'm gonna go out  
10 on a limb and assume the commercial percentage fees,  
11 is there any issues there? Anything anybody would  
12 want to see different? So the next section of the  
13 rules is licensing. So does anybody here feel that a  
14 person needs to be registered as an apprentice? And  
15 when I say registered, I'm just talking the actual  
16 card. You come in, pay your money and get a card. Is  
17 that an absolute --

18 Martinsen: You mean actually a card program.

19 Nielsen: Sorry?

20 Martinsen: You mean actually part of a program or just the  
21 card?

22 Nielsen: Just the card. Do you feel that for somebody to start  
23 their plumbing career, they need to come in and get a  
24 card from us?

25 Martinsen: No.

1 Nielsen: Do you come up and --

2 Baker: Mike Baker, Down the Drain Plumbing. Uh, yeah. They  
3 absolutely need a card. I've seen too many times, and  
4 I think everybody else here has, too, where guys are  
5 going in who aren't apprentices, who aren't registered  
6 with anything. And, yeah. Yeah, they need to have  
7 something that says they at least took the initiative,  
8 or the company took the initiative to say, this guy's  
9 an apprentice here.

10 Nielsen: Okay. Anybody else?

11 Dickey: Uh, this is the third meeting I've had and third time  
12 saying this. Um, so I'm, uh, Paul Dickey. I'm the  
13 ISU, uh, pressure coordinator. Uh, and I think it's  
14 very important for apprentices to be registered with  
15 the State of Idaho 'cause I think it, um, adds  
16 (inaudible - 00:07:28), um, to the apprenticeship  
17 program. Um, prior to getting the card, the  
18 apprentice only has a job, and that's really the  
19 concept that they can grasp, especially year ones.  
20 They don't understand what the apprenticeship program  
21 entails or that they've been given the opportunity to  
22 develop a career. Um, having a card makes them, you  
23 know, it's the first step to them committing themselves  
24 to a career and understanding its importance.

25 Baker: Okay.

1 Nielsen: Thanks, Paul. Anybody else? I -- sorry, Tim.

2 Tim: Maybe a follow up question, Paul, to just understand  
3 as an educator, what rule do you guys play, um, in  
4 facilitating that awareness of this is a pathway to a  
5 career?

6 Dickey: Almost any conversation I have with, uh, someone who's  
7 coming in and considering the program, I try to, uh,  
8 instill on that the opportunity that they've been  
9 given by, uh, their employer. 'Cause sometimes we  
10 have people and we have -- a lot, most times we have  
11 people who have been hired and their, um, their  
12 employer or journeyman say hey, you have to go get  
13 registered for school. And I instill in that, in them  
14 from day one on orientation. Hey, this is a two part  
15 process. You've been -- this is an opportunity for  
16 you to develop a career. Also in November, we have an  
17 apprenticeship appreciation week. That's a national  
18 thing. And we try to get spokesmen, uh, to speak to  
19 the apprentices, uh, during these events to talk about  
20 their, um, past experience with the apprenticeships  
21 they have and how that was a pathway into the career.  
22 And sometimes I get someone who just doesn't have  
23 employment yet and they're coming to see me. And I  
24 have to explain to them what an apprenticeship is,  
25 that is two parallel paths on the job training and

1 classroom training, um, on the way to a career. And,  
2 you know, they need to find that employment. They  
3 also -- and this is another thing. If they're coming  
4 to me with -- looking to can - -- enter into the  
5 program and they haven't found employment, my  
6 suggestion to them always is, hey, get your  
7 apprenticeship card and that way when you go to see  
8 potential employers, they know you're serious about  
9 entering the field.

10 Anderson: I totally agree. Dave Anderson, Plumbers and  
11 Pipefitters again. We have a registered  
12 apprenticeship program. We do the exact same thing  
13 when we bring them in. This isn't just a job; it's a  
14 career because we not only teach plumbing and  
15 pipefitting, we teach a lot of the things like HVAC,  
16 welding, and we guide them and direct them to say,  
17 hey, this is a career. This is our industry. I've  
18 been doing this for 40 years. You know, it's the best  
19 thing you ever did -- happen to me. So we do the same  
20 thing as ISU. You know, get them out there, explain  
21 to them that, yes. This is a career, this is  
22 apprenticeship and the card is vital to it because  
23 everyone of our apprentices that come in as first year  
24 get that card because they know, hey, we're gonna be  
25 plumbers. If you don't want to be a plumber, at least



1           you got the card to get started because part of our  
2           program talks about plumbing and goes through the  
3           codes, and goes through the practicals and everything.  
4           So we're turning out plumbers. Thanks.

5 Nielsen: Thank you. Anybody disagree with any of that and  
6           would like their opportunity to speak? All right.  
7           Another topic on apprentice. Currently, somebody from  
8           out of state can verify with us or prove that they've  
9           had eight years acting as an apprentice legally in the  
10          state that they come from. Eight years OJT basically.  
11          And they can sit for the journeyman exam. How do you  
12          guys feel that we should -- how do you feel if we did  
13          that with the Idaho guys? They'd have to be  
14          registered but you know, they didn't go to school.  
15          They doubled their time. They'd go eight years and  
16          then they'd sit for their journeyman's exam.

17 Dickey: See, I'm a little confused by this because you're  
18          saying, hey, they can come in with 8,000 hours and sit  
19          for the journeyman exam when almost I get on a daily  
20          basis someone from DBS sending people to me to  
21          evaluate their education.

22 Nielsen: Now, let me back up, Paul.

23 Dickey: Okay.

24 Nielsen: They come in with 16,000, eight years.

25 Dickey: Oh, eight years. Okay.

1 Nielsen: Yeah.

2 Dickey: I thought 8,000 hours.

3 Nielsen: Yes.

4 Martinsen: Okay. 'Cause, uh, again. Some from out of state,  
5 they generally will bring their 8,000 hours but DBS or  
6 formally DBS will send them to me to evaluate their  
7 education, so.

8 Dickey: No. I understand the education part, Brent.

9 Nielsen: They'd come in with 8 years on JT which equals 16,000  
10 hours.

11 Anderson: Would they still have to pass the test?

12 Nielsen: Basically.

13 Male 2: All right. So when one city -- well, when they start  
14 to pass tests?

15 Dickey: Um, 1,600 hours.

16 Nielsen: No. They have to pass the exam.

17 Dickey: Okay. And 'cause we do have some perpetual  
18 apprentices that we deal with. And, and they're smart  
19 and appealed. They just can't pass the test.

20 Nielsen: Yes, to answer your question. They still have to pass  
21 the journeyman exam before they are journeymen.

22 Dickey: Okay. And is there any path forward for the perpetual  
23 apprentice who can't pass the test?

24 Nielsen: Currently in plumbing, the only path is is you're  
25 lifetime apprentice. You know, we do have special

1 accommodations if they bring them in, if they're  
2 something like that.

3 Dickey: Mm-hmm.

4 Nielsen: But, you know, 'cause everybody here probably knows  
5 there's apprentices out there. They do a great job.  
6 They don't want to go to school. They don't want to -  
7 -

8 Dickey: Mm-hmm.

9 Nielsen: They're happy doing what they're doing and the  
10 contractors and employers are happy to have them. And  
11 so there isn't a roundabout to just be handed a  
12 journeyman's card unless you're from Montana --

13 Dickey: Mm-hmm.

14 Nielsen: -- or Oregon on the reciprocal side.

15 Male 2: Okay, okay.

16 Dickey: Hum.

17 Nielsen: All right.

18 Leatham: Brandon Leatham, I'm a licensed HVC journeyman. Um,  
19 that's kind of one of the reasons we started looking  
20 at trying to push for the continued education credits  
21 on our stuff, is on the HVC side of this because we  
22 had these lifetime apprentices that has 10, 12, 15  
23 years' experience. We have had some of them take our  
24 test at our training center and they didn't pass it  
25 'cause they had no formal education. So I -- the

1 16,000 hours are great, but I think if there's some  
2 sort of continued education required or some sort of  
3 minimum standards on there so they have a professional  
4 education, it'd be great. It doesn't got to be a full  
5 4 years, but you know, 20 hours a year or something  
6 like that, but --

7 Nielsen: Thanks, Brandon. Anybody else? We may have to kind  
8 of getting the not too opposed to it.

9 Dillon: I got one. Uh, Dave Dillon. I'm with the Labor's  
10 Union. Um, what requirement do you have for verifying  
11 those hours that they bring in?

12 Nielsen: A signed affidavit. We --

13 Dillon: So we're -- you know, if we were to pull a certified  
14 payroll, um, 'cause anybody can sign that affidavit  
15 and just say, hey, yeah. I -- he worked for me for 8  
16 years. 'Cause he don't care. He's John Henry in  
17 another state. It doesn't mean shit to him if he's  
18 sending somebody over here that doesn't know.

19 Nielsen: Okay. Thank you.

20 Dillon: Mm-hmm.

21 Nielsen: Anyone else? All right. Okay. So another one I get  
22 a lot on, and you say it's after they get an NLV, is  
23 constant on the job supervision. There's, uh, not,  
24 not the same new, but coming into Idaho, into  
25 (inaudible - 00:15:23) here on our side of things

1           called permission list innovation. It's out there.  
2           It's nothing we created. And the point of it is to  
3           have a group or somebody to -- they can figure out the  
4           way they want to monitor themselves and not have  
5           government regulation in there dictating how it's  
6           gonna be before anything happens, but kind of saying,  
7           hey, here's your chance. You guys go until something  
8           obvious happens and then there needs to be some  
9           regulation. I mean, do we have an issue with wanting  
10          a journeyman on the job all the time? Or would you  
11          like to see it different and maybe loosen up a little  
12          bit? 'Cause you got -- we're kind of in the middle.  
13          You got electrical over here with a ratio, and you  
14          have HVAC over here that as long as you can get ahold  
15          of that journeyman, you're good to go. So we are the  
16          middle of the road.

17 Anderson: Uh, Dave Anderson, Pipe Fitters again. Uh, with us,  
18          we have a four to one ratio with our contracts. Uh,  
19          four journeyman per one apprentice. So because we do  
20          have a lot of apprentices that do need supervision.  
21          And when you're dealing with plumbing and health, we  
22          want to make sure it's done right. You know, I, I  
23          don't think it's right to have a journeyman assigned  
24          to 20 apprentices where he's within a phone call. I  
25          think that guy needs to be able to see his work and

1           make sure he's got the vent going the right way or  
2           anything that deals with it. So, yes. I'm very much  
3           for having journeyman with the apprentices.

4 Dickey:    So, can I follow up?

5 Nielsen:    Sure.

6 Dickey:    Or ask a quick -- so would you rather see it more  
7           restrictive, the ratio?

8 Anderson:  Yeah. Four to one is a good one for us such -- 'cause  
9           that's what our contractors like. They like having  
10          that four to one. Uh, some of them would like to have  
11          a one to one, you know. But sometimes you can't get  
12          apprentices. Uh, I mean, we're in a manpower  
13          shortage. You know, but I think a, a four to one is a  
14          good one for us. Now I know that electricians like  
15          one for one but you know, we're, we're content with  
16          four.

17 Dickey:    Okay.

18 Anderson:  So, not, not that -- not to go bad on the  
19          electricians.

20 Dickey:    No.

21 Anderson:  But you know, but I, I do, I really do believe  
22          supervision is essential in our work, in our jobs, to  
23          keep, you know, the health, the public health safety.

24 Nielsen:    Thank you.

25 Anderson:  Thank you.

1 Dickey: And I would highly agree with you that, uh,  
2 supervision is very critical in our industry. I'm not  
3 so sure I would put a firm number on your ratio. I  
4 think you'll have some journeyman are better than  
5 other, other journeyman. One guy can handle one or  
6 two guys. Another guy could handle six or eight guys.  
7 Honestly, it's really an individual basis on his  
8 skillset on what he's capable of passing forward. And  
9 I think the biggest thing to perceive here is we're  
10 talking about a career path and the supervision is  
11 investment into the apprentice.

12 Nielsen: Thank you. Anyone else?

13 Leatham: Um, on this, I agree with the supervision on there as  
14 well 'cause there's not a single person in here that  
15 learned everything from a book or learned it by  
16 themselves. So you'd need to have an onsite  
17 supervision in my opinion. The ratio, that's, that's  
18 up to you guys on plumbing, you know, to discuss as an  
19 interest or whatever. But I am very wholeheartedly  
20 behind that because in the HVC industry, we have no  
21 requirements at all. I can literally be regis - -- on  
22 the company, go down to the temp agency, hire 25 guys,  
23 send them down here. Have these guys sign them up and  
24 then fly to Florida and sit on a beach somewhere. And  
25 if they can call me by phone, they're supervised. You

1 know, which is not right. So I'm in support of it as  
2 well.

3 Baker: Mike Baker, Down the Drain. Uh, you know, I think, I  
4 think the ratios are important. Uh, I can see, you  
5 know -- I've supervised a lot of apprentices as I'm  
6 sure everybody in here has. And you've got  
7 apprentices that can do the work. You've got second  
8 and third year apprentices who can, who can  
9 legitimately do the work, you don't have to stand  
10 over, but the ratio isn't for those guys. The ratios  
11 is for the guys who need the supervision. And  
12 unfortunately, I think part of the problem in that is  
13 where does, where does the contractor become  
14 accountable, too? Because there are a lot of  
15 contractors that will just throw those guys to the  
16 wind like you was talking about. Go to Florida. They  
17 throw those guys to the wind. They're not even  
18 apprentices and I've seen them. And, and they're  
19 getting no supervision but they're doing journeyman  
20 level work. And so I think not only does there need -  
21 - I think there needs to be a ratio but it doesn't  
22 need to be rigid. But at the same time, there's got  
23 to be somewhat of an accountability for the contractor  
24 to be responsible for that ratio to make that, you  
25 know, at least spot checks are being done on the guys



1           who can do it and definitely supervision is being done  
2           for the guys who need it, when they need it.

3 Leatham: So let me throw this out to you.

4 Baker:    Yeah, go ahead. Hopefully, that makes sense. That's  
5           all.

6 Leatham: No. Because right now, so you know, the point is, we  
7           don't want to come here.

8 Baker:    Mm-hmm.

9 Leatham: They're trying to reduce regulations, so --

10 Baker:    Yeah, yeah.

11 Leatham: -- they don't come up and create a bunch of to do  
12           rules on ratios and everything.

13 Baker:    Mm-hmm.

14 Leatham: But currently, and when the civil penalties, as far as  
15           civil penalties go, we cannot fine the contractor that  
16           does an in-plumbing.

17 Baker:    Mm-hmm.

18 Leatham: 'Cause there's nothing that says the contractor, you  
19           know, sending out an apprentice, but as long as  
20           they're not supervised, I'd have to send them a  
21           warning letter.

22 Baker:    Mm-hmm.

23 Leatham: Does anybody feel, you and Mike, that --

24 Baker:    You know --

25 Leatham: You know, coming into the civil penalties side like I

1           said --

2 Baker:     Mm-hmm.

3 Leatham:   Is that an option?

4 Baker:     I, you know, that's a tough question to answer because  
5           I don't think, I don't think that as a whole,  
6           contractors are all bad. It's the few unfortunately  
7           that make the rest look like they're doing things they  
8           shouldn't be doing. Uh, I don't necessarily think  
9           there needs to be civil penalties. It just seems like  
10          there should be some sort -- and maybe one of you guys  
11          has a better idea. There needs to be some sort of  
12          something that -- so you got one guy running a shop  
13          over here and he's killing it and he's checking his  
14          guys and he's got his journeymen on his guys and  
15          they're doing what they need to be doing. And you got  
16          this guy over here completely taking advantage of the  
17          system 'cause he knows nobody's checking on him and  
18          nobody's gonna. So if civil penalties could fix that,  
19          I'm not in favor of civil penalties per se 'cause I  
20          agree. I think more regulation is only gonna make it  
21          more complicated. But there's got to be a balance  
22          somewhere. There's got to be some way that they guys  
23          who's doing it, 'cause he knows it's the right thing  
24          to do as compared to the guy who's doing it because he  
25          knows he can get away with it, where there can be a

1 balance where this guys knows he's at least being spot  
2 checked occasionally, if that make sense. And civil  
3 penalties could be part of that eventually, but maybe  
4 not right away.

5 Leatham: Okay.

6 Baker: Warning system type thing, so.

7 Leatham: Thanks.

8 Baker: Can, can this be part of the discussion? So how, how  
9 would we feel about if --

10 Nielsen: Please step up.

11 Baker: Sorry.

12 Nielsen: A good middle.

13 Baker: Yeah. That would be here. So how would we feel that  
14 it, you know, the meeting point, the regulation kind  
15 of happened at inspection? So that if there are, you  
16 know, if, if, if I am seeing that everything's going  
17 good and the, the apprentice has got things under,  
18 under control and he's putting out a good product,  
19 great, no problem. If there's problems, then, then  
20 the inspector can say, you know, I'm not signing off  
21 on this until we, we find a way to bring the quality  
22 up a little bit.

23 Nielsen: And I mean, that is an option. You know, and that's  
24 why we're here.

25 Baker: But, but --

1 Nielsen: To come up with ideas on how to do it but I'll, I'll  
2 add even further to the civil penalty a and  
3 everything. I can find the apprentice that like he  
4 sends out there on the job without a journeyman. So  
5 you know, take that into consideration also with --  
6 when we're thinking about this whole, uh --

7 Baker: Yeah.

8 Nielsen: Not ratio.

9 Baker: Sure, sure.

10 Nielsen: Supervision and civil penalties thing.

11 Baker: Yeah. And, and I get that and maybe there is, there  
12 should be a civil penalties for the contractor in the  
13 extreme case. I'm not in favor of that either because  
14 that in my mind means that we've got to have another  
15 position of somebody sitting in Boise that we've got  
16 to right -- to regulate this. And, and I'd rather see  
17 the money go to get more inspectors to make sure the  
18 work is getting done and the people are actually  
19 pulling permits. I think the biggest problem are the  
20 people who don't pull the permits and who's enforcing  
21 that? Would, would be my take on that. So I think --  
22 I, I mean, I think, yes. Maybe there should be  
23 somebody who, who just gives the middle finger to all  
24 the rules. There should be something out there that  
25 holds them accountable somehow, some -- but, but that

1           should be an extreme case. 'Cause I don't think most  
2           of us are that way. I would rather see more resources  
3           go to more inspectors so that we can catch the guys  
4           that are deliberating not pulling permits and, you  
5           know, the guys that we all cleanup afterwards.

6 Nielsen: Sure. No. I appreciate that.

7 Baker: Does, does that make sense?

8 Nielsen: It does. You're on record with this, so we can either  
9           --

10 Leatham: Uh, Brandon Leatham again. Um, I, I agree a hundred  
11           percent, does there need to be something on there. As  
12           far as with the penalties and stuff like that, is  
13           there -- that might be a spot where you guys put in  
14           some language of habitual violators or blatant  
15           disregard for the laws and stuff like that. 'Cause  
16           it's -- you can't put that on apprentice and then have  
17           an inspector come through there and say, yeah. That  
18           isn't gonna work. And then all of a sudden, nobody  
19           enforces that penalty as well. So it's not that  
20           everybody needs a penalty but it's for those habitual  
21           offenders that are over and over and over, they're  
22           just blatant disregard for the system.

23 Nielsen: Maybe a gross violation?

24 Leatham: Yeah, exactly. Gross violation and stuff like that.

25           And, and then as far as with, um, the apprentices and

1 stuff like that requiring, uh -- sorry. I've lost  
2 train of thought there. Um, as far as with the board  
3 and stuff like that is, if it is something that's a,  
4 you know, direct supervision, stuff like that, um, it  
5 should be up to the boards themselves. Like it is  
6 right now. We've -- nobody can get help. So you --  
7 if you do end up with a ratio on there, it should be  
8 up to the boards to put a -- maybe a relief on that  
9 with a sunset clause on it and review that every six  
10 months or something like that. So, you know, let's,  
11 let's say just the ratio is one to one, you can't find  
12 enough journeymen but you got all the apprentices  
13 starting to come through there, stuff like that.  
14 There should be allowance there for boards, each board  
15 for craft specific to say, okay. You know what?  
16 We're gonna relieve that. Now you've got a two to one  
17 ratio on that because we have a, a manpower shortage  
18 and stuff like that, so.

19 Nielsen: No. Thank you.

20 Baker: Uh, and, and I completely agree with that. I just --  
21 I know in, in our case, if we were to keep a one to  
22 one or even a one to two ratio, I wouldn't get  
23 anything done. I mean, we're, we're in a service  
24 business where, you know, I can't have four  
25 apprentices on one job with a journeyman. I, I mean,

1           that's, you know, to do, to do service work. I, I  
2           mean, that just doesn't make sense for us.

3 Nielsen: No, I understand.

4 Baker     And, and so I think, I think the pinch point, it's,  
5           it's gonna be that, you know, at least in our world,  
6           if, if they, if they, if the quality of work is, is  
7           substandard, then I feel like the -- I'm not gonna  
8           sign off on this, you know, on this inspection. And  
9           then you're gonna have to go explain to the homeowner  
10          why, you know. I mean, put it back on, on the  
11          economics of Mr. Contractor. You're not getting paid  
12          until you satisfy this, is, is -- I mean, that's,  
13          that's where I think the regulation -- that's kind of  
14          where the buck would stop in my mind.

15 Nielsen: All right.

16 Leatham: And maybe just to clarify. I'm not pushing for more  
17          apprentices. If you need to have nine journeymen to  
18          one apprentice, that's fine. I just don't want to  
19          have the one journeyman to 20 apprentices, which is  
20          what we have on the HVC side of it, so.

21 Baker:    Yeah. I'm sure.

22 Leatham:  So, you know. Uh, but also the other thing, too, is  
23          that you kind of mentioned before, is on kind of the  
24          installation and craftsmanship, stuff like that, is I  
25          have asked almost every inspector, probably a third, a

1 third of more of them across the state, who enforces  
2 that on there? Because in the beginning in these code  
3 books, it says in there it will be installed in a  
4 professional system, or professional manner. Sorry.  
5 Is that one of mine?

6 [background conversation]

7 Leatham: Sorry. It was an alarm. I thought I had it off. Um,  
8 but on there, so also the inspectors need to be able  
9 to say this is done correctly or it's not. There's  
10 nothing in there that says it's got to be installed  
11 square level or plumb. So I've gone in there and  
12 taken pictures of the furnaces that were 3 inches out  
13 in a 36 inch tall and there's nothing they can do  
14 about it. So they need to have that as well. So but  
15 then it's who deci - -- who determines what's quality  
16 and what's not.

17 Nielsen: Anybody else?

18 Mendive: How's it going? Dave Mendive, local 648, plumbers,  
19 pipe, pipefitters. I've been working in the industry  
20 for 16 years. Um, I'd just like to express the, um,  
21 the relationship in between me, apprentice, and the  
22 journeyman. Um, I've been on jobs where I see people  
23 permanently hurt, killed. Um, it's really important  
24 for them to teach these younger kids, you know, what's  
25 important, what's safe. Um, yeah. And the whole



1           deregulation thing, I just feel like it could, uh,  
2           really get more people hurt, which I don't want to see  
3           that.

4 Nielsen: Sure. Yeah. I appreciate it.

5 Mendive: So thanks.

6 Nielsen: One more before we move onto the next? All right.  
7 Contractor licenses. Currently, you do your four a  
8 year school, four years OJT, two and a half years  
9 holding your journeyman's card, you can test for  
10 contractor. A few years ago -- been here too long,  
11 probably more like five or six now. There was  
12 discussion of making a master's, master plumber  
13 license, and then having a business license. Which  
14 basically would mirror what the electricians do. He'd  
15 have a business license but that business, anybody  
16 could test and get that license. But they would have  
17 to have a master plumber on staff and that would be  
18 the one that controls the permits and everything else.  
19 And then your journeyman and apprentices. Does  
20 anybody here feel one way or the other on that topic,  
21 or just would prefer to leave it the way it is and --  
22 'cause right now, the contractor, your contractor, my  
23 contractor license is my license. I just decide who I  
24 want to associate it with. And just so nobody gets  
25 worried, I can't do anything with it like rent it out

1           since I'm with the State. So anything on that topic?  
2           Yes? No? Leave it? Okay, let's do this. How many  
3           would just leave it? All right. How many would like  
4           to discuss and see it discussed further and see how it  
5           all kind of would shake out if we went that route or  
6           looked into it? Is this thing on?

7   Dillon: I don't know enough about that to say one way or the  
8           other.

9   Nielsen: Please come on up and --

10   Dillon: I'm just saying I don't know one way or the other  
11           enough to say let it stand.

12   Nielsen: All right. I'm gonna put this down that it's a maybe.  
13           Like I said, look into it a little bit more and see  
14           what we come up with.

15   Male 3: Is, is there a billing of pros and cons that you can  
16           maybe give us, previous meetings kind of thing?

17   Nielsen: I mean, the pros -- so right now, if I had a plumbing  
18           company and I die, everybody's out of luck until  
19           whoever kind of runs my finances, you know, whether  
20           it's my wife or somebody, you know a partner, they  
21           come in and find another person to say, okay. I'll,  
22           you know, put my license with you. The -- with the  
23           business license, it could be, you know, your wife.  
24           She would be the business that I'm, I'm gonna say  
25           master, but you know, she holds the license. You're

1 the master. Something happens to you, I mean, she  
2 still has to find another masters, but that business  
3 is still going. Or if you leave, you know, she could  
4 come in or find somebody else to run it. It's just  
5 more that you know, when a person does hold the  
6 license and they died right now, it can get pretty  
7 ugly and honesty, one of the biggest companies in  
8 Boise, his daughter runs it. But she can't ad - --  
9 she's got them lined up, all the contractor licenses  
10 in case they start dropping off to keep that business  
11 going. But in that instance, if she could go in and  
12 take that business license, she could keep the doors  
13 open on the business side and then shop around and  
14 bring in a master. So that's kind of what it is.

15 Dillon: I see the original. Is there a stipulation on fine  
16 print?

17 Nielsen: That it all hap - -- all those de - -- details would  
18 have to be worked out. Right now, I'm just getting a  
19 general sense.

20 Dillon: I think it's fine pretty much when you get ideas for  
21 transition with home contractors.

22 Nielsen: Okay.

23 Baker: With 6 months capital?

24 Nielsen: Well again, like they say at the ta - -- the code  
25 committees, we don't have to write code on the floor

1 here. You know, but like I said, I'll put it as a  
2 maybe here that the master wasn't totally shot down.

3 Dillon: Who does their (inaudible - 00:33:54)?

4 Nielsen: Another topic is, does anybody feel one way or the  
5 other on maintaining two licenses? Once you get your  
6 journey on -- you get your journeyman and get your  
7 contractor's, would you like to see once you've got  
8 your contractor's, you don't have to maintain a  
9 journeyman, or do you even care? Is it that big of an  
10 issue? You'd still have to do 16 hours of CEUs, but  
11 you just wouldn't have to be --

12 Dillon: May --

13 Nielsen: -- watching two dates and you know. Oh, I need the  
14 CEUs for this or -- but --

15 Dillon: Yeah. Okay. Yeah. We need that.

16 Nielsen: Okay. So going through here, another hot button topic  
17 and you've got both sides of the spectrum on this, is  
18 continuing education. Does anybody feel that what we  
19 currently have, 8 for journeymen, 16 for contractor  
20 every 3 years, good, bad, indifferent? Used to it  
21 now? Want more hours, less hours, no hours?

22 Anderson: I think it's good to keep looking at it a couple --

23 Nielsen: Come up, please.

24 Anderson: I think it's a good thing for CEUs to keep the guys in  
25 the code book so that it doesn't just get shoved under

1 the truck seat and forgot about.

2 Nielsen: Would you like to see more hours?

3 Anderson: No, no.

4 Nielsen: Okay.

5 Anderson: Dave Anderson. I totally agree. You need the code  
6 book. Also for the new technologies that come up, you  
7 know, to get your journeyman, apprentice, whoever, up  
8 on the new technologies with the new education.

9 'Cause we can't keep living in the past. We got to  
10 embrace some of this new technologies that's a coming.

11 Nielsen: So Dave, all that's a view and it'll go along with  
12 his, though. Would you like to see more CEU hours?  
13 And when I say more, right now -- or not CEU hours.  
14 Code. 'Cause right now, you only have to have 4 hours  
15 of code.

16 Wilson: Well, I think as long as the codes aren't changing, I  
17 think we're good where we're at. But if the codes  
18 keep changing, then yes. The guys need to be up on  
19 the codes. So if it might require more hours, yes.

20 Nielsen: Okay. Anyone else on CEUs? We're gonna delve into  
21 specialty licenses here for a second. And I'm  
22 guessing, is there any specialty license holders out  
23 here? So right now, plumbing has an apprenti - -- or  
24 not apprentice. Appliance plumbing specialty, which  
25 is your water heaters, uh, all the HVAC guys at one

1 time love me 'cause I made them get a specialty  
2 plumbing license to put in water heaters for potable  
3 systems. And the other one is water pumps. Does  
4 anybody feel that these licenses are necessary?  
5 Should -- could we look at it as excavators, exempt  
6 them from licensure but still require permits and  
7 inspections?

8 Baker: So, so we do that. We, we excavate, we replace  
9 waterlines, sewer lines, and we, and we have quite a  
10 few excavators that just call us to come do the  
11 hookup. And my concern with some of the excavators in  
12 town allowing them to do plumbing functionality is  
13 they're probably not required to have adequate  
14 insurance if things go wrong. And so -- I, I mean,  
15 it's always -- I'm always -- there's, you know,  
16 there's some guys that I won't do the work for because  
17 if things go wrong, then it's, then it's on us and  
18 it's on our insurance and our license. Um, so there's  
19 got to be, you know. If, if, if they're gonna be in  
20 that functionality, then, then they ought to -- 'cause  
21 I feel like I, I pay more than my fair share in  
22 insurance. So I know a lot of guys out there way  
23 under insure. They tell me that we are paying way too  
24 much, but I, I mean, only for if, if something goes  
25 wrong, I don't want to lose everything.

1 Nielsen: Yeah. And I was gonna talk --

2 Baker: So that would be my concern.

3 Nielsen: -- about things DOPL, or the plumbing board requires  
4 is the take out the dollar bond.

5 Baker: Bond.

6 Nielsen: And that's another topic we can discuss if you wanted  
7 for a second. Is that enough? Is it a waste of time?  
8 Should it be more of an insurance?

9 Baker: And I don't know the answer to that. I, I, I mean --

10 Nielsen: And again, I don't expect an answer. Just a, you  
11 know, if you have a thought on it.

12 Baker: I, I, I hear all too often that we come in. I, you  
13 know, I'm being called out to a job today that she's  
14 had three previous companies and none of them have  
15 fixed it. And so one of them made it a lot worse.  
16 The customers don't really have any recourse. I mean  
17 right now, the only way the customer knows if they're  
18 getting a good job or not is Google reviews, which are  
19 inherently unreliable. And so, but once it has  
20 happened, I mean, you know, there, there should -- I,  
21 I don't know. I, I guess I don't know. But I mean,  
22 it, but it should be, there, there should be, you  
23 know, some benchmark to say, hey. If, if I screw this  
24 up, I, I have the wherewithal to make it right. How,  
25 however that happens.

1 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

2 Anderson: So the original question was whether we should  
3 continue the specialty licenses, was it, was it not?

4 Nielsen: Do you think that --

5 Anderson: Do we think --

6 Nielsen: That a need for these specialty licenses or --

7 Anderson: Yeah.

8 Nielsen: -- to have an exemption for them?

9 Anderson: Okay. So I can see it on the plumbing and inspection  
10 side, but, um, if you got guys that aren't normally  
11 doing plumbing that are using these licenses like per  
12 say, to do water heaters, I think it comes in once  
13 again to the approaching as a career. You don't want  
14 -- I mean, when somebody has to license on something ,  
15 they typically take it more seriously. And I'm not a  
16 proponent of spending a bunch of money and having a  
17 bunch of State involvement, I might add. But, but  
18 the, the licenses still give a certain level of, of  
19 professionalism and a certain level of, I'm committed  
20 to what I'm doing. And I think when you go to a  
21 permit and inspection system, they're just gonna -- I  
22 think you're gonna see -- I think inspectors would end  
23 up having more work to do because now they gonna have  
24 to go back and fix this, go back and fix this 'cause  
25 it is -- 'cause there is nothing there initially to



1           make sure that they know it's got to be this way.  
2           Which I think the licensing would do. So I think in  
3           this case of non-plumbers doing plumbing work with  
4           specialty licenses that are probably very important to  
5           take --

6 Nielsen: Okay.

7 Anderson: -- to keep in line, so.

8 Martinsen: I think is, uh, professional, it came up in industry  
9           and personally started with a specialty license  
10          myself. Um, and it was an inroad for me into the  
11          field that I was interested in. So I think I agree  
12          with specialty licensing and I would agree with  
13          expansion of specialty licensing for additional  
14          inroads into the trade.

15 Nielsen: All right. Thanks. Anybody else? All right. I'll  
16          go on.

17 Dillon: Can I ask a question of you all? Uh, and this is  
18          coming from a non-tradesman. Um, what -- I think that  
19          the goal when we were talking specialty licenses  
20          always to get people into the trade. But we also, I  
21          think one of the things that we, you know trying to  
22          understand and navigate as a vision just based off of  
23          political realities in Idaho between the executive  
24          branch and side branches to not continue to add new  
25          licenses. And so when we're talking the creation of

1 new specialty licenses, are we really looking to  
2 create exemptions for licensure or where's the middle  
3 road of every new specialty license or every new  
4 (inaudible - 00:42:58) can just be an admission, and  
5 at some point, you know, 10 years from now, we're  
6 gonna have 15 specialty licenses for each one of the  
7 trades. And it just gets more complex and then it's  
8 too difficult to navigate. I mean, is there a middle  
9 ground there? How, how should we evaluate these when  
10 it comes up?

11 Anderson: You get your steps in today?

12 Baker: My cardiologist will thank you. So sorry. Is your,  
13 is your question that by adding too many specialty  
14 licenses, it'll just dilute the plumber's license?

15 Anderson: I think it could go both ways. So is the addition of  
16 the specialty license di -- diluting the entirety of  
17 the trade? And then the other part of this, are we  
18 creating a license for something that shouldn't need a  
19 license? In other words, it's, it's a unique niche  
20 but it's highly unlikely to be a life safety issue and  
21 therefore, doesn't need to be regulated? Uh, like how  
22 do we make those distinctions?

23 Baker: Huh. It's above my pay grade. Yeah. I think you can  
24 go too far. I think probably -- I mean obviously,  
25 something -- uh, uh, what comes to my mind is, you

1 know, fire suppression systems. I mean, that's,  
2 that's a little more, you know, critical than  
3 sprinklers. So I mean, I think there is a place for  
4 some specialty. Maybe it's certifications and not  
5 necessarily a license. Is that, that maybe -- I mean,  
6 that, that could be maybe the solution.

7 Male 3: Yeah. I'm open to anything, I guess. I think we've  
8 seen it in multiple professions where you, you've  
9 historically had a baseline license or registration,  
10 and then just the complexity of the trade or  
11 profession as life goes on there's a differentiation  
12 between so many different specialties. And you look  
13 back in 10 years and you've created so many different  
14 pathways. And we've also, um, people have got so  
15 specific that they've lost the ability to also work in  
16 their original trade from which they were trained  
17 because they've been so hyper-focused. And so it just  
18 does add in a lot of complexity. So I, I don't know  
19 if there's, there's a solution. In any event, we've  
20 just been trying to navigate it.

21 Baker: Yeah. Well, let me know how that turns out.

22 Male 3: Thank you.

23 Nielsen: Anyone else? The next subchapter, um, is amendments  
24 to the plumbing code. Right now, we have 50  
25 amendments to the plumbing code. So we will have to

1 look at each one. I know there's certain topics,  
2 there's certain code issues out there that I hear  
3 about a lot. Um, is there any questions, comments,  
4 um, suggestions on -- off the top of your head on pro  
5 - -- on not proposed code changes but the code changes  
6 currently in IDAPA? Any cleanouts? Uh, what's the  
7 deal on seismic straits for water heaters? Anything  
8 like that that comes to mind that you'd like to see  
9 changed, altered, deleted? Again, we need to look at  
10 this as what is costly to you and the consumer but not  
11 life safety? So as we look as these rules 'cause we  
12 all know 30 cleanouts in a house is costly but not  
13 life safety, so.

14 Baker: Yeah. That's -- from a guy who cleans sewers, I, I  
15 think it would save my life on occasion.

16 Nielsen: Well, I was gonna say a valid points a coming.

17 Baker: I, I, I still think, I think, I think about a lot of  
18 those things and on the importance of still a  
19 subjective standard. And I, I still think the key is,  
20 is, is di - -- diverting more resources towards  
21 inspection. I think, I, I, and I mean I can't tell  
22 you how many times that I've gone, you know -- there's  
23 a leak in the house and it's, and it's flooding. And  
24 we have to unhook a water heater and move it out of  
25 the way so we can get to the, the main water shutoff.

1 Um, I, I think, you know again, finding cleanouts that  
2 there's no way we're gonna get a drain cleaning  
3 machine in that area. I mean, there's got to be some  
4 voice of pragmatism that says common sense has to  
5 prevail. And I think that rests with the inspector.  
6 I don't think more code is the key. I think, I, I  
7 think putting more resources towards inspectors is the  
8 key to that. And I think -- and, and giving them the  
9 more power to say [whistle].

10 Anderson: Let me -- I, I can't give you a professional opinion  
11 on it. The code change that went into effect in the  
12 2021 uniform plumbing code. Currently we've got three  
13 water closets, are allowed three water closets on a 3  
14 inch horizontal line. They've bumped it up to five.

15 Baker: And it's dangerous. I, I mean, especially when -- I,  
16 I mean on one hand, you know, I wish they would sell  
17 more Quilted Northern in the world because that's what  
18 keeps us going. But to, to put five on, on a 3 inch  
19 line, that's a lot.

20 Nielsen: Well hold on to the podium 'cause in 2024, they're  
21 proposing six.

22 Martinsen: On a 3 inch horizontal?

23 Nielsen: Yes.

24 Martinsen: There's strength there in business then.

25 Baker: Yeah. We're gonna, we're, we're gonna need to change



1 that ratio to, uh, apprentices, 'cause I'm gonna need  
2 more guys. Hon - -- hon - -- honestly, a fair amount  
3 of the people that I go talk to, I mean, and, and, and  
4 part of it is will they even listen to you. But you,  
5 you say it -- you say did -- have you changed toilet  
6 paper lately? Yeah. We just went to Quilted Northern  
7 or Charmin, and you're like, okay. Do yourself a  
8 favor. I mean, and, and we were out there three, you  
9 know, three times in a month and they're pissed off  
10 wanting us to warranty every one of them. After they  
11 change, I don't hear from them for six or eight  
12 months. I mean, it's a real -- so by adding more, I,  
13 I just think you're adding more problems.

14 Nielsen: Well again, you know, this is a uniform and I'm just  
15 letting you know where the uniform plumbing codes  
16 going internationally. And you know, if you looked at  
17 it in your case, you're looking at it work-wise, but  
18 the costs and fis - -- you know, 4 inch to 3 inch.  
19 Again, I haven't done anything so I don't know. Stick  
20 a 3 inch and want to stick the 4 inch costs nowadays.

21 Baker: I, I don't think it's cost prohibitive to, to just  
22 bump it to 4 inch. I real -- I mean, that's not a  
23 huge -- it shouldn't be a deal breaker in my mind.  
24 But I mean --

25 Nielsen: But these are the, you know. And again, I'm just

1           throwing out ideas what, you know, gets discussed in  
2           technical committee meetings. You know, in our office  
3           out in the field, you know, should we have inch and a  
4           half trap on trap on for showers. You know, stuff  
5           like that that people do run into that okay. You  
6           know, realistically, short of having 10 heads in that  
7           shower, and inch and a half --

8 Baker:       Should do it.

9 Nielsen:     -- trap is gonna take the water out of that shower.

10 Baker:      That's right. Yeah. That's right.

11 Nielsen:    You know, simple stuff like that. just thoughts. I  
12           mean, you know, these, all these are on our website,  
13           that dds.idaho.gov. They could peek at them and see,  
14           you know, what you can come up with and let me know.  
15           If there's anything that you think needs to be changed  
16           or would like to see.

17 Baker:      All right.

18 Nielsen:    Thanks. So that pretty much wraps up what I have and  
19           you know going through the rules here. Is there  
20           anything anybody else wants to come up and talk about  
21           that has to do with the rules? No? All right. Yeah.

22 Baker:      I, I do, I do think probably the biggest blackeye on  
23           our industry are the guys who don't pull permits. And  
24           I think, I think like they said, the gross negligence.  
25           And so I think there should be some more than just a



1 slap on the wrist for the guy who habitually tries to  
2 duck on a permit and doing it the right way. And  
3 that's, you know. I don't know, I, I don't know if we  
4 want to hire investigators to go that far, but there  
5 should be a way that says, you know. And, and I mean,  
6 our inspectors are, are savvy guys. They know who do  
7 it -- who does it and who doesn't. And so I, I think,  
8 I think that's something that we should look into on,  
9 on more of a punitive basis maybe that says like, if  
10 you're not gonna pull permits -- and, and usually  
11 they're not pulling permits because they're not  
12 licensed which is my experience, so.

13 Nielsen: Well, I appreciate that. We did hire, uh, an actual  
14 call it a compliance officer. We brought him in for  
15 occupational licensing and that's all he does. But  
16 then again, he's out in Meridian.

17 Baker: Right.

18 Nielsen: He's one guy.

19 Baker: Yeah.

20 Nielsen: He does get out. In fact, this week he was in the  
21 Magic Valley area, but we do have compliance and as  
22 this whole process, you know, continues on and we  
23 merge of the self-governing agencies together, there  
24 might be that opportunity to get a few more because  
25 obviously right now, Chris and the gang got more to



1 do, you know, than around --

2 Baker: Well --

3 Nielsen: And you, you know, and I'm not --

4 Baker: But sure, sure, sure, sure. But, but I think, I think  
5 there's a fine line because back to -- I mean, I, I  
6 still think divert those resources towards getting  
7 more inspectors. And I -- these guys can wear more  
8 hats if they're given more staff.

9 Nielsen: True.

10 Baker: And so I mean, when they're, when they're already  
11 standing here, I mean, I've run into it several times  
12 with, with state agencies. They're like you saw it,  
13 why didn't you -- well, that's not what we were  
14 looking for at the time. And so, you know, if, if  
15 Chris Reik (ph) are standing there and they can see  
16 that next door there's something going on, they  
17 shouldn't need to get back in their truck and call a  
18 compliance officer in Meridian to get something  
19 happening.

20 Nielsen: And they know that.

21 Baker: Right, right. So I guess my, my, my thought is,  
22 divert more of those resources to having inspectors.  
23 And, and they can be well paid inspectors. I mean, so  
24 the, so the -- that's why --

25 Nielsen: I know that's being discussed also. They can't

1                    compete with your guys, that you're paying guys.

2 Baker:        Oh, I don't know. Thank you.

3 Nielsen:      Thank you.

4 Martinsen:    Do you guys the ratio of output?

5 Nielsen:      One inspector per 1,500 licensees. All right. If  
6                    anybody doesn't have anything else, I appreciate you  
7                    guys coming and letting us, you know, know how you  
8                    feel and stuff. Thanks.

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Michelle Keen, do hereby certify that I have listened to the recording of the foregoing; further that the foregoing transcript, Pages 1 through 41, was reduced to typewritten form from the digital recording; and that the foregoing is an accurate record of the recording as above transcribed in this matter.

DATED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

  
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