

# Sandpoint Plumbing Board Meeting

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Transcript Prepared By:



TRANSCRIPTION  
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1 Nielsen: All right. We'll get started. I appreciate you guys  
2 coming out. I know 2:30 in an afternoon is not the  
3 ideal time, but when we set up these classes or town  
4 hall meetings we decided to save the best for last so  
5 we're last at all of them. But my name is John  
6 Nielsen. I'm the Plumbing Program Manager for  
7 Occupational and Professional Licenses, what we now  
8 call DOPL, used to be the Division of Building Safety.

9  
10 And today -- well let me get some introductions first.  
11 We got MiChell Bird. She's our Bureau Chief for  
12 Construction -- I know I'm not going to say it right  
13 but Construction and Real Estate. So she's the one  
14 that keeps a leash on us now. Mike Hyde, he's the  
15 HVAC Program Manager. We got Chuck, Mark and Brady  
16 here, our Inspectors, Gary Sonnen back there is the  
17 Electrical Supervisor, Warren Wing is the Electrical  
18 Program Manager, and Mike Paschall is the HVAC  
19 Supervisor. I believe that takes care of all the  
20 introductions.

21  
22 So what these town hall meetings are about is last  
23 year the governor issued an Executive Order 2020-01,  
24 also known as Zero-Based Regulations. And what that  
25 does is it institutionalizes the process by which all

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rules, um, will be amended, and it goes out for each agency. So back in the day if we wanted to amend something, every year we'd go before the legislature. Now we're on a five-year rotation, and what they're going to do is take the whole rule packet, the IDAPA Rules, and go over them all at once. And what they do is they repeal and then we replace them.

And when we replace them we have to ask whether the benefits of the rule intended to achieve or being realized whether those benefits justify the cost of the rule and whether these are less -- or whether there are less restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefits. So with that, there's actually a form that we need to fill out and justify when we put these rules back in, and we go through that process. And we also have to look at all the surrounding states, what they do for licensure, permitting, inspections, code adoptions, including South Dakota and Alaska.

So going forward we're going to hold these town halls. We've, um, been to Eastern Idaho, did Meridian, up north this week, got a couple more down south next week. But we are compiling information from industry. So we want to hear what you have to say about anything



1 dealing with IDAPA Rules. We'll compile that  
2 information. We'll present it to the board in 2022,  
3 and the board will go through the negotiated  
4 rulemaking process and it will all be vetted, you  
5 know. And depending on what's going on, we may or may  
6 not have, you know, more town hall meetings, but we'll  
7 have the negotiated rulemaking. It will be noticed  
8 up. And our rule packet will go in front of the 2023  
9 legislature.

10  
11 So anything we discuss here today is not going to  
12 happen overnight. You would not see any changes to  
13 our rules until spring of 2023. So is there any  
14 questions on that process or, um, the new  
15 organization?

16  
17 We are recording, so we're going to have this, uh --  
18 do a transcript of the meetings so it will be public  
19 information. So I'll ask you if you have a question  
20 or a comment please come up to the podium, somewhat of  
21 a podium, state your name, who you're with, and again,  
22 feel free to ask a question or, you know, give us your  
23 feelings on the topic.

24  
25 And just to keep things moving along a little bit, I'm

1 just going to go through and start with the code  
2 amendments. Did you happen to -- probably didn't get  
3 a -- so what I passed out are the current amendments  
4 to the code. We have 50 amendments to the Uniform  
5 Plumbing Code. All right. That's not including the  
6 subsections. So that's 50 rules that we've amended  
7 somehow of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

8  
9 What I did was I just sat down -- because the whole  
10 point of this is to try and lessen the burden on the  
11 contractors and the -- and homeowners, you know.  
12 Whether it has to do with rules, licensure, anything  
13 like that we're here to discuss all the options. So I  
14 just sat down at my desk and put in purple some of the  
15 code amendments that I thought in my world would be  
16 easy to either amend or just make go away. So I guess  
17 that would be my voice (inaudible - 00:05:50).

18  
19 And again, the purple is not changes or anything.  
20 It's just I looked at it. I'm like realistically the  
21 cost-to-benefit of us witnessing a pressure test on  
22 your rough-in, is that something we could work out to  
23 try and make your lives easier, make our lives easier,  
24 you self-verify? You know, the governor wants to get  
25 us out of your lives as much as possible, to a point.

1           And this is the starting spot.

2

3           So with that, you had a chance to look them over.

4           Again, they're all open for discussion. None of them

5           are open for discussion. If nobody comes up here and

6           talks, it's going to be a short meeting. And again,

7           we don't have to drag it out all day either, but with

8           that, I'd just like to hear anybody's opinions on the

9           current rule amendments.

10

11           Cleanouts, I hear a lot of complaints about cleanouts.

12           That's a good one. Anybody got any ideas on what

13           they'd like to see there?

14   Hammock: You want me to start this off?

15   Nielsen: You bet.

16   Hammock: Anybody else want to go? There we go. I still going

17           to pass tomorrow? Uh, cleanouts within five feet of

18           crawlspace has been an issue in a lot of upper end

19           custom homes, and I think there are other ways of

20           resolving that. Um, making a toilet flange a

21           cleanout, um, considering it a cleanout in rules going

22           forward would be a, uh, huge benefit. It's actually

23           where people are, are, um, accessing to clean out a

24           lot of times anyways, and, uh, I think we can afford

25           to make closet flangers cleanouts, uh, resolve some



1 problems and conflicts.

2 Nielsen: Sorry. Your name and who you --

3 Hammock: Oh, sorry. Jack Hammock, Will's Plumbing.

4 Nielsen: All right. Thanks, Jack. Anybody else? Again, these  
5 are all ideas because, you know, as far as cleanouts  
6 go -- where is it here -- you know, six -- 707.4, if  
7 we deleted this, we would have to amend the five-foot  
8 because that is in the body of the code. But you  
9 know, you eliminate the above the floor bases stack,  
10 that sort of thing, and then amend five back to 20.  
11 So does anybody else got anything on -- again, not  
12 just cleanouts but anything else?

13 Porter: Kevin Porter from Southward (ph) Plumbing. What Jack  
14 was getting at too, the stack when you're in a custom  
15 home like that and you tell them I gotta have a three-  
16 inch cleanout in the middle of your living room most  
17 of the time it gets covered up after Mark and Grady  
18 have left because no one wants a cleanout cover in a  
19 custom home sitting there. I mean they can paint  
20 them. They can wallpaper them or do whatever they  
21 want to do with them. But they don't like that. With  
22 -- that's an issue.

23  
24 So we've been doing a lot underneath that five-foot  
25 thing is we've been running them out through the room

1 joists, but then I mean how many times do you have  
2 that going out through the room joist? And if they've  
3 got rock work and stuff on the outside of the  
4 building, they don't want cleanout covers on them. So  
5 if cleanouts become an issue, you know, just where we  
6 can get them in that five-foot rule, you know, from  
7 that, um, crawlspace, that crawl opening.

8 Nielsen: All right.

9 Porter: You know, so. And I don't know. I've been doing this  
10 a long time, guys, and not too often have I've had to  
11 get under a house with ABS and clean the sewer out. I  
12 mean it's normally outside or it's somewhere else. So  
13 I mean I understand the reason for cleanouts but  
14 sometimes we're pushing this and it's like -- it, it  
15 becomes a real pain to do it, so.

16 Nielsen: All right. Thank you.

17 Porter: Yep.

18 Nielsen: Anybody else on any topics?

19 Hammock: Jack Hammock, Will's Plumbing again. Um, softener  
20 loops, John. We're doing a number of -- we're doing  
21 complete subdivisions on slabs and our local water  
22 systems have, um, no water systems on them and no  
23 water issues. Uh, since that code has come up we're  
24 spending -- I mean everybody wants to make up their  
25 own number. Let's say we're spending 500 or 1,500 of



1           somebody else's money when we're looking for  
2           affordable housing issues all the time and how to cut  
3           that back.

4  
5           We have hundreds of houses now where that, that  
6           softener loop has no real purpose. Um, it, uh -- when  
7           it was up to our discretion, the size of the home, the  
8           location of the home, we had -- we installed softener  
9           loops at our discretion, at our builder's discretion.  
10          But to have them required in hundreds of homes where  
11          they're never being used is, uh, I think that's just  
12          been a disservice to the community legally --

13 Nielsen: So --

14 Hammock: -- um, locally to have softener loops required.

15 Nielsen: So to follow-up on that, you know, be it on record, so  
16          do you feel that the cost-to-benefit is not there,  
17          that --

18 Hammock: There is, there --

19 Nielsen: -- it's not life safety and the cost is costing the  
20          homeowner and everybody else.

21 Hammock: Yeah, absolutely. And thank you for continuing the  
22          conversation there. There -- in, in hundreds of homes  
23          there is no benefit and an added cost of somewhere  
24          between \$5 and \$1,500 --

25 Nielsen: Okay.

1 Hammock: -- to the cost of the home, so yeah.

2 Nielsen: Thank you.

3 Hammock: Yep.

4 Nielsen: Anybody else? Here's -- oh.

5 Patton: Charlie Patton from Patton Plumbing. Um, I think this  
6 is a great idea, and I really appreciate taking the  
7 time to, to look at getting less regulations. That's  
8 just like music I think to most of our ears. I mean  
9 it's not that the code isn't there for a purpose, you  
10 know, to have plumbing that's going to be affordable -  
11 - I guess they're not worried about that. That's,  
12 that's why we're here, uh, one of the reasons.

13

14 But to have it safe and working and, and then to try  
15 to put the responsibility for a screw-up back, you  
16 know, on -- I mean where does that lie if -- so some  
17 of these things are saying well we want to do this,  
18 put these rules in, in so that there isn't a mess-up  
19 and that the homeowner isn't stuck, the next homeowner  
20 maybe isn't stuck. Maybe this, maybe this homeowner  
21 says oh just do it this way, and I, I understand that  
22 the code is there to save the next -- maybe the next  
23 guy buying the house. So there's some issues there.

24

25 But just I'd like to see for instance -- and I worked



1 in Michigan and, and licensed there for 20 years and,  
2 uh, Nebraska, also, uh, North Dakota. And I've --  
3 this testing of the piping system. I'd like to see it  
4 actually go away if that's at all possible, um, of the  
5 air and water. I mean in other states we haven't, we  
6 haven't had to do that. I mean it's, it's -- you're  
7 digging up the line. You're putting fern- -- you  
8 know, ferncos in, couplings, and I have never had a  
9 leak. Um, I had one piece of pipe once where a  
10 forklift or something ran over it and it was, it was  
11 split.

12  
13 But if, if the job is done carefully and you're  
14 sealing every joint and you're, you're soft walling  
15 (ph) and, uh, there just hasn't been a leak. Um, and  
16 I know that that's not always the case because  
17 everybody's been -- so then -- so, so you have a leak.  
18 So then where is -- what happens? It goes back on us.  
19 They don't call you. So I mean I'm thinking to get  
20 rid of some of these regulations so that who are they  
21 going to call?

22  
23 There's some -- there's a drip in the ceiling. Well  
24 okay. Once in 20 years or something or once every  
25 five or whatever, whatever it is. You get what I'm



1 saying. That they're going to call us. The customers  
2 are going to call us and say -- and, and so that's the  
3 responsibility on, on the contractor. Why not let us  
4 take that risk instead of all the expense of time and  
5 testing and plugging and all that stuff? I -- um, we  
6 haven't had to do that in Michigan and, uh, in  
7 Nebraska. Now some of the, some of the inspectors are  
8 -- it's in the code, but they weren't calling on it.  
9 Um, it wasn't in Nebraska. Um, but anyway, I --  
10 that's, that's one thing I'd like to see away.

11

12 And the other thing is, is the -- is yeah, the  
13 cleanouts, um, using the, you know, toilet for a  
14 cleanout if you have to, you know, like pull toilets.  
15 But I think if we're doing a good job, we're going to  
16 try to put cleanouts in as if we're the service person  
17 coming back to fix it. That's how we want to do the  
18 job. We want to do the work as if it were our house  
19 and so but there's, there's so much there that are  
20 just in the regulations that I think can be taken out  
21 and I'm, I'm eager to hear what other guys have to  
22 say. Um --

23 Nielsen: Can I ask you a quick question on that?

24 Patton: Yeah.

25 Nielsen: So you know, and that's what we're trying to do, get

1 us out of your way 'cause you're right. You guys are  
2 responsible for it all. But do we really need a rule  
3 that says you can use that water closet as a cleanout  
4 or do we go -- you know, if the code doesn't say you  
5 can't, does that mean you can or vice versa?

6 Patton: Right. You know, it would --

7 Nielsen: So, so you know, again --

8 Patton: -- make it simple. Yeah.

9 Nielsen: Yeah. And so my question to you would you rather see  
10 us spell out what can and can't be the cleanout or if  
11 it was silent on the subject, do you think it would  
12 cause more issues? Because, you know, I tell my guys  
13 -- 'cause they're the water closet end of the line,  
14 would it cause more hate, discontent between  
15 jurisdictions maybe?

16 Patton: Yeah. I would think sim- -- my, my opinion would be  
17 making it simpler and not even, you know, address it  
18 except in a, in a phrase that would say adequate --  
19 um, to be able to adequate clean the system. Um, I  
20 mean we all don't want to come back and go in a  
21 crawlspace if we don't have to, um, and, and do the --  
22 now not all of us are doing service work but I've done  
23 it all and, and it's like I want to put it in there so  
24 in case I'm coming back and there's a diaper caught in  
25 there I want the simplest way. I don't even want to

1 have to pull the toilet. I mean I'd like to have a  
2 cleanout, um.

3

4 And I see out here you guys are putting them out  
5 through the foundation but if it's eas- -- if it's  
6 easy to do that's handy for running up. You're not  
7 even taking the sewer machine inside the house.

8 That's excellent. But to have, have a ver- -- you  
9 know, have it -- say you have to have it, you know,  
10 like you say, you got a brick house or something else  
11 and, you know, it's kind of nice to not have that --  
12 to have that option.

13

14 Um, so I think less verbiage I mean instead of making  
15 it more complicated. And I see here the first one  
16 here says, um, on testing, um, it says it's -- it may  
17 be, um, seen by the inspector. What is it? The --

18 Nielsen: Second sentence.

19 Patton: Oh, in Section 105.3(A), "Test may be conducted in the  
20 presence of authority having jurisdiction." Um, what  
21 does that mean may? I mean like it may not be too?

22 Nielsen: And honestly that's the way it was written so that it,  
23 it was left up to the discretion of the inspectors and  
24 the contractors.

25 Patton: Okay. Well that's, that's nice that whenever there's

1           some leeway there. Do you have any -- you know, once  
2           you have a relationship with the inspectors and stuff  
3           too I mean it's like they, they know who the good guys  
4           are, and, and, uh, there should be some leeway there.  
5           And I think -- I'm thankful for those that take that  
6           leeway, but it would be nice if they weren't on the  
7           spot because they're trying to follow their  
8           guidelines. If we, if we can reduce some of these  
9           things, that's, that's excellent.

10 Nielsen: I'll just ask you a yes or no question. Well would  
11           you rather see this in writing or just get rid of it  
12           so that you know you don't have to put a test on it  
13           and it comes back to you?

14 Patton: I, I would -- yeah, I would like to see the whole  
15           thing go away and, and put the responsibility as it is  
16           anyway and save the cost to the homeowner and to  
17           everybody done the line of doing extra sealing and  
18           everything. I know you guys are used to doing it.  
19           It's maybe -- you say it's no big deal. But, um, when  
20           I first started doing that, um, it was like there's a  
21           lot of, um, stuff that we didn't have to do, more time  
22           involved in, in sealing. And you have one little leak  
23           and it's just -- it's on a gauge or some little crack  
24           on a cap that just really isn't -- doesn't hurt the  
25           system.

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I've had ferncos blast off and I think, you know, it -

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- oh I'm just using a fernco so I don't have to glue

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anything on the end and then they -- five pounds and

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they'll blow off. So I'm scratching the end of them

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so they -- uh, scratching up the pipe so it sticks on

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the end and, and, uh. But there's -- that's my point

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anyway. I'm interested in what you guys think.

9

Nielsen: Anybody else? Anybody against that? Adam, you're

10

going to have to come up and get over here.

11

Hammock: I think casting has added value. Um, it is our, um --

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it does come back to us. I'm not sure that the

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state's ever been involved from a liability

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standpoint, but I, I will say that, uh, verbiage that

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did not require the state to witness the test would be

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fined. But I do think we owe it to the general public

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to put a test on and verify it before we're pouring

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concrete and moving forward. And I know of --

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currently know of somebody that's asked for help with

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an under slab pipe leak that is, um, it's going to be

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a \$100,000 remodel. It's not good. So I, I --

22

Nielsen: And the --

23

Hammock: -- I, I do, I do feel the test -- if, if I was to word

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it today, I would say the test would be required. The

25

verification of it would not be necessary. And again,



1           it's our responsibility. And that's Jack Hammock,  
2           Will's Plumbing.

3 Nielsen: Jack, thank you.

4 Hammock: I keep forgetting to do that. You bet. John, um, um,  
5           if we're going to keep moving along, otherwise another  
6           one that I would discuss is air admittance valves,  
7           studor vents, um, not being allowed -- they're only  
8           allowed in residential. That's great. Um, they're  
9           only allowed in islands, and, uh, there have been  
10          times in the past when it was allowed for structural.  
11          I, I think there are rooms that bring -- there are,  
12          there are applications that bring added value to that,  
13          um, in being able to have inspectors at their  
14          discretion allow those for structural issues. Um, if  
15          it works for a sink, it works for a sink, and we're  
16          spending a considerable amount of, um, money that is  
17          bringing no better product to the customer in some  
18          situations.

19  
20          And, um, if that was -- if the inspectors had the  
21          ability to, um, make that call, if we, um, if we can  
22          word it in a manner that allowed it at their  
23          discretion to be used for structural acceptance --  
24          exceptions I, I think that would be a better fit for -  
25          -

1 Nielsen: So Jack --

2 Hammock: -- those who are working for --

3 Nielsen: -- would that be commercial and residential? And the  
4 re- -- obviously the reason I ask is because right now  
5 the way the rule is written it's only residential.

6 Hammock: Mm-Hmm. Um, to put me on short notice like this, I  
7 would say no not in commercial.

8 Nielsen: Okay.

9 Hammock: Um, it's mechanical. Um, you're not talking about one  
10 homeowner. You're talking about the general public.  
11 And I would -- on short notice I would say no but I  
12 would certain- -- I would -- I think that's up for  
13 discussion.

14 Nielsen: All right. Let me jump up -- come on up.

15 Male 1: Okay. You get.

16 Nielsen: And I just wanted to point one thing out, you know.  
17 On Section -- well number 12 here, 507.2, I just  
18 wanted to make clear that currently this delete  
19 seismic strapping, and if we got rid of this rule, it  
20 puts seismic back into the code. So that's the one  
21 oddball out that, you know, if you did get rid of it,  
22 you would end up doing the opposite. Go ahead.

23 Male 1: I just want to say to what Jack was pointing out is  
24 sometimes you get a tenant improvement on a commercial  
25 building and it's nice that coffee sink that's way

1 over there in the corner structurally you can't get  
2 above it -- there's a tenant above you -- to be able  
3 to put a studor vent in a breakroom sink or something.  
4 I mean I, I don't agree they should be everywhere, but  
5 every now and then you get a situation where that  
6 studor vent is handier than hell to put in over there  
7 just because you got a tenant. How do you get a vent  
8 up somewhere, you know, on it?

9  
10 Um, testing, I think we should have to test. Maybe  
11 have the contractor verify it 'cause I know sometimes  
12 when it's cold weather and temperature changes our  
13 gauge goes down five pounds. Mark calls me up and  
14 says, hey man, your test is down here. So we got to  
15 drive all the way back out wherever it's at to do it  
16 where if you had the contractor that was there, the  
17 homeowner maybe sign off on it. But I think testing  
18 we all need to do that. It protects everybody. It  
19 protects us. It protects the consumer that buys that  
20 building or something.

21 Nielsen: All right.

22 And then cleanouts, just one more thing on cleanouts. Man, I've  
23 been doing this a long time, but years ago I think  
24 maybe if you make the contractor put a certain size  
25 access hole so you -- if you did have to get a machine

1 down in there, you could do it. But the days we  
2 always put a combo underneath that toilet with a  
3 cleanout in the end of it, you know, and you could get  
4 a machine down in there and do it. And I don't know  
5 what's happened through the years where all of a  
6 sudden now cleanouts are this huge issue where we got  
7 to have them everywhere where in the old days it  
8 always worked fine, you know, so.

9 Nielsen: All right. I'll bring up another one. So let me find  
10 it here. Number 39, four-inch building sewer. If you  
11 go off of the Uniform Plumbing Code, you go off  
12 fixture units and the number of water closets. We  
13 amended this to be four-inch. I'm not saying good,  
14 bad or indifferent.

15  
16 I sit on the Plumbing Technical Committee for the  
17 Uniform Plumbing Code, so I see all the proposed code  
18 changes that come up for the ne- -- you know, 2021.  
19 We're working on 2024 now. If you went to the 2021  
20 Uniform Plumbing Code and then just plumbed out of  
21 that book, you could put five water closets on a  
22 three-inch horizontal line and not have to worry about  
23 four-inch coming in on top of that. In 2024 they're  
24 looking to going to six water closets on a three-inch  
25 horizontal line.



1

2

Again, just throwing it out for, you know,

3

conversation 'cause there's -- in other meetings

4

there's a little bit of a kickback. You know, the

5

rest of the world must eat more fiber than Idaho and

6

we need four-inch.

7

8

So you know, but again, cost, convenience, you know,

9

if it was that way in the codebook, does anybody see

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another one that always gets kicked around in the

11

technical committees?

12

13

Realistically, do you need to have a two-inch trap on

14

for a shower with today's, you know, water

15

restrictions? And how many times when you're doing a

16

remodel or something wouldn't it be nice to just be

17

able to have that inch and a half trap on that was on

18

the tub run over there? Any thoughts on any of those?

19

Come on. Somebody come up and get it on record.

20

Hammock: There are too many, um, residential master showers

21

with multiple heads to think that, um, inch and a half

22

would be a better application in my opinion. It is --

23

Male 2: This issue of like a three-inch threshold is all we

24

got.

25

Hammock: It's -- yeah, but with our --

1 (Crosstalk)

2 Male 2: -- they kick it out --

3 Hammock: Yeah.

4 Male 2: -- you know.

5 Hammock: Yeah. With the thresholds that we're looking at, um,  
6 down to zero in some cases.

7 Male 2: Some of the handicap ones where they can get a  
8 wheelchair in there.

9 Hammock: And, and three and four showerheads or I would like to  
10 add a showerhead, um, to that shower. I, I think that  
11 the two-inch trap arm is still in my opinion the way  
12 to go with that.

13 Nielsen: Thanks. Anybody got anything else on codes that you'd  
14 like to discuss? If not, I'll move on. And again,  
15 this is the way it's written. Just 'cause it's in  
16 purple doesn't mean I didn't change anything. So now  
17 you, now you got something to work with your  
18 inspectors on, on. You can be like oh right here John  
19 highlighted it in purple.

20  
21 So the next, the next topic I'd like to bring up is  
22 the residential fee schedule. Back in the day before  
23 I got in this position, you know, it used to be permit  
24 fee. Then you'd do the fixture count. Then for  
25 whatever reason the powers to be went to square

1           footage. Does anybody have any thoughts one way or  
2           the other? Would you like to see it go back to a base  
3           permit fee and count fixtures or are you happy with it  
4           the way it is?

5 Male 3:   Sometimes you forget fixtures and it becomes a pain in  
6           the butt, you know.

7 Nielsen:  Come on up if you want.

8 Male 3:   All right.

9 Nielsen:  Okay. Apprentice registration, there's been some  
10          discussion on what life safety and what value does an  
11          apprentice registration card do for that person. And  
12          so I'd like your thoughts on that. Do you like the  
13          five years? Would you rather see a one year? Would  
14          you like to see it go away? The arguments out there  
15          being that I want to have my kid or grandkid come out,  
16          work with me, but if the inspector catches me, he's  
17          going to write me up because he's unregistered. And  
18          in the end he has to prove -- they have to prove to me  
19          -- you have to verify that they had four years of OJT.  
20          They have to verify that they went to four years of  
21          school. So does anybody here feel that a registration  
22          card with the Division of Occupational and  
23          Professional Licenses really hold any value?

24 Gates:    I think it does.

25 Nielsen:  Come on up please. State your name.

1 Gates: Uh, uh, Brandon Gates with Selkirk Plumbing. I think,  
2 uh, those, uh, cards for apprentices it really -- it --  
3 -- for when I had it when I was using it it's like --  
4 it was almost like it gave you something, initiative  
5 or like, you know, that held you to your career. You  
6 know, it kind of gave you a, you know, you know --  
7 there's rules against, you know, what you have to do  
8 to get your license, you know, rather than just oh I'm  
9 a plumber now, you know. You actually have something  
10 there that, you know, brings you into it. But --

11 Nielsen: Okay.

12 Gates: -- yeah.

13 Male 3: It's a process.

14 Gates: It's a process, yeah. And it's like I had my  
15 apprentice license, you know, and I went through four  
16 years and all that kind of stuff and, you know,  
17 anybody -- it just -- if you remove that, then anybody  
18 can just oh I'm a plumber now, you know. But, um,  
19 yeah, so.

20 Nielsen: All right.

21 Hammock: Jack Hammock, Will's Plumbing. I'll agree with  
22 Brandon real quickly and then just add that the, uh --  
23 it gives a, a method of tracking who is out there, the  
24 number of people that are in this trade and are we,  
25 are we capable of meeting these, these needs in the



1 future. Um, it gives a, a method of notify for the  
2 state to send notices to contractors and journeymen  
3 and not be able to reach out to those apprentices we  
4 have new requirements. These are the, these are the,  
5 um, requirements for you. Um, class sessions are  
6 required. Are you attending your classes? I think  
7 it's important that, um, the state have a method of  
8 reaching out and communicating with the --

9 (Crosstalk)

10 Nielsen: All right. I'm going to ask you a question, Jack.

11 Hammock: Absolutely.

12 Nielsen: So would there be much heartache in going back to a  
13 one-year registration to be in line with HVAC and  
14 electrical. And Jason's over here, you know, he's  
15 brought up in meetings twice today that like you said  
16 it's a good way to track. But when we're sitting  
17 there with a five-year card currently, you know, they  
18 might have got a card and then took off, and we're  
19 still counting for the next four and a half years as  
20 being a, you know -- for informational reasons.

21 Hammock: Mm-Hmm.

22 Nielsen: But would it be burdensome on the contractor and the  
23 apprentice to go back to a one-year registration so if  
24 for no other reason we have a more accurate count?

25 Hammock: No, I, I don't know that that's an issue as far as I'm

1 concerned, John. As long as they -- as long as  
2 they're registered and there's a way of communicating  
3 with them in the future. Um, there's a five-year  
4 limitation to the apprentice card.

5 Nielsen: There's -- it expires after five years, but they can  
6 renew it as many times as they want.

7 Hammock: Okay. I think that addresses the other problem I may  
8 have had.

9 Nielsen: All right.

10 Wideman: Yeah, John, my name is Brett Wideman. I'm with the  
11 Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 44. I too agree. Uh,  
12 the apprenticeship model is, is viable to keep in  
13 place. Uh, it, it lets us track them. As far as my  
14 question when you brought up going back to the one  
15 year now, uh, it, is a -- it's a cost to the  
16 apprentice at that point. So what I'm trying to  
17 think. It's \$50 or \$55 right now I believe for that  
18 trainee card. Now is that going to be a \$50 a year  
19 annual if something were to go backwards?

20  
21 I personally don't see the need to go back. Uh, we  
22 like the five-year plan. But, um, it also -- you  
23 know, it keeps a log and a registration of, you know,  
24 the people doing our, our work every day and that's  
25 what we need to keep track of so labor shortages in

1 the future we know where we're at. Um, we can base,  
2 you know, our business model and everything else off  
3 of it.

4 Nielsen: All right.

5 Wideman: So we're in full support of keeping that.

6 Nielsen: All right. Thanks. I know you -- come on up. But to  
7 answer your question, you know, as we're going through  
8 this, we're trying to reduce regulations and barriers.  
9 The last thing we're going to -- you know, they want  
10 to see too is us hammer somebody for 50 bucks a year  
11 when it's -- so realistically if we went to a one-year  
12 it would probably be a \$10 fee.

13 Wideman: Right, right.

14 Nielsen: We'll just chop it down into the -- so. Come up.

15 Patton: Charlie Patton, Patton Plumbing. Now yeah, I, I get  
16 what's being said as far as having something to work  
17 for and having something that you -- it's an  
18 apprentice card and getting, um, something -- it makes  
19 you feel good. And but here's the thing, just a  
20 little bit of pushback on that. It would be a -- some  
21 kind of agreeing with, with that but saying what about  
22 a mechanism where there's -- where we are sole  
23 proprietorship and you're trying to mentor some young  
24 people. Um, I've, I've been doing that over the  
25 years, and it's real rewarding. And I think we'd all

1 agree we need apprentices. We need, we need to  
2 encourage these kids to get off the couch. I've had  
3 one friend of mine actually paid me to take his kid,  
4 uh, and, and so that was --

5 (Crosstalk)

6 Patton: And, and here's, here's the thing. I mean he, he --  
7 I, I -- you know, I told him I said every hour you're  
8 late for work your wage goes down a dollar an hour,  
9 you know, and we worked things out. And I had him  
10 sign a little contract and it was -- but see, it was,  
11 it was under -- I wouldn't say under. The sole  
12 proprietor I was, um, not legally having a long term  
13 situation. And I understand with the bigger, uh,  
14 companies there's, there's a lot more, you know,  
15 regulation and, and there's more sense to having  
16 things tracked.

17  
18 But what about just helping our friends and our --  
19 and, and some of these young people that we want to  
20 see get into the, into the, the work, in these trades?  
21 I mean we really need this. Um, and so I, I would be  
22 all for it anyway. And I'm -- I, I don't have  
23 anything except some kind of -- to, to think of what  
24 someone in my position would be up against bringing  
25 along somebody -- and it may even be just for a couple

1 weeks. A lot of times these guys don't last. But  
2 unless they get out on the job and they try, and some  
3 of these people haven't even been out on worksites.  
4 Um, and that was the case with some of mine, um, and  
5 just to get out there where people are hustling and  
6 bustling and they see what the world is like.

7

8 We have a lot of kids that are on the couch and they  
9 don't really -- they need encouragement and then  
10 people in our position I think need a little bit of  
11 leeway to get, to get somebody -- to get our younger  
12 generation, um, willing to get dirty and make some  
13 money that way instead of just pushing buttons.

14 Nielsen: Okay. Thanks. Anybody else?

15 Clair: Scott Clair (ph) with Easterly Plumbing (ph). Um,  
16 apprentices, I think right now we're at, what, uh, one  
17 1:1 ratio for apprentices on the job?

18 Nielsen: Plumbing does not have a ratio.

19 Clair: So we can have apprentices on the job.

20 Nielsen: You'd have to have a journeyman, but you can have as  
21 many apprentices on the job as you want.

22 Clair: That's what I meant. So right now with the manpower  
23 shortage I do 90 percent residential. Um, I would  
24 like to see a two-year apprentice be able to work on a  
25 jobsite by himself. I mean right now I'm having such



1 a hard time getting apprentices and I think that  
2 should be -- because I can look at a guy -- 'cause  
3 I've been doing this a long time -- I can look at a  
4 guy and go that guy's competent. I can tell. I mean  
5 it, it eventually comes back to me on my contractor's  
6 license and everything.

7  
8 But I think there should be some leeway there that, uh  
9 -- I mean it's hard to find journeymen. It's hard to  
10 find apprentices, especially when you tell them they  
11 got to go to school for four years which I strongly  
12 believe in. Um, it keeps our, keeps our trade up on  
13 the up and up. But I think we need something to help  
14 us out with the apprentices, you know.

15 Nielsen: So along those lines, to segue into that, I'm assuming  
16 for the most part everybody wants to keep the  
17 apprentice registration and go that route and discuss  
18 further maybe one year to five. But to segue into  
19 another topic I was going to bring up, direct  
20 supervisor which you're talking about.

21 Clair: Right.

22 Nielsen: How do you see -- again, should the Division be  
23 telling you or regulating your guys when you know who  
24 you can put on a job by their selves and, you know,  
25 who -- you should know you shouldn't be able to?

1 Clair: No, I don't think you should be able to regulate us.  
2 I think everybody should be licensed.

3 Nielsen: Okay.

4 Clair: But regulating us, I think you should leave it up to  
5 us to find -- you know, to say hey this guy can do  
6 this job. Commercial, industrial is a little  
7 different story. You're working with the public and  
8 stuff like that. But I think residential, yeah.

9 Nielsen: Okay.

10 Clair: Thanks.

11 Nielsen: So, so just to clarify that que- -- you know, the  
12 statement I'm making is would you as industry like to  
13 see it stay the way it is -- it's -- the rule says  
14 direct supervision. So the journeyman has to be on  
15 the job. Or would you like to see -- and I'll -- Mike  
16 and Warren get sick of this. You know, you got  
17 electrical, 1:2, 1:4. HVAC is just supervised, and  
18 for the most part if you can get them on the phone or  
19 something, the journeyman, you know, then they're  
20 being supervised. So thoughts on that topic. Please  
21 come up. Or -- go ahead.

22 Wideman: Yeah. Brett Wideman, Plumbers and Steamfitters. I, I  
23 wholeheartedly agree the, uh, the apprentice needs to  
24 be supervised. If the way the statute is written in a  
25 -- in such a form that that allows for phone calls

1 'cause you don't necessarily need a journeyman plumber  
2 if you're sending an apprentice to change a, a  
3 drinking fountain filter or whatnot. I -- you know  
4 what I mean. But if, if you're saying, if I heard you  
5 correct is by telephone is that an acceptable  
6 supervision method or is it open the way it's written?

7 Nielsen: It is not open the way it's written. The way it's  
8 written is you and your apprentice are out there  
9 trimming out a house. You get a service call or  
10 something. You have to pull your apprentice --

11 Wideman: I see.

12 Nielsen: -- and drag them along because you can't leave him to  
13 finish trimming the house even though --

14 Wideman: I see.

15 Nielsen: -- you think he's, he's competent to.

16 Wideman: I -- I'll leave my, my conversation at that. I, I  
17 agree with them being supervised.

18 Hammock: I agree with all that. I think they should be  
19 supervised but there's times when, you know, you got a  
20 slab and you're digging a ditch and I send guys out  
21 there to dig. I mean word is that -- do I have to  
22 stand there and watch them dig or can I have them do  
23 something or if I've got them insulating pipes or  
24 something, do I -- you know, do they have to have  
25 supervision to do that, you know? Some of it's kind





1 of menial labor, you know, and have two of us there --

2 Nielsen: And right, and right now the way it's written yes you  
3 have to --

4 Hammock: You'd have to do that.

5 Nielsen: -- be there.

6 Hammock: Exactly.

7 Nielsen: So and again, I'm not saying get rid of super- -- I  
8 mean that's --

9 Hammock: No, no. I think they should --

10 Nielsen: -- up for discussion but --

11 Hammock: Yeah.

12 Nielsen: -- I'm just saying would you like --

13 Hammock: They shouldn't be cut loose when they're plumbing a  
14 house, but maybe the inspector's discretion of these  
15 guys came on and saw apprentices out there digging a  
16 ditch are they going to call me, you know? So I think  
17 there's some things that they can do without  
18 supervision, you know, so.

19 Nielsen: All right. Thanks.

20 Hammock: And that phone always works excellent, man. Like I  
21 said, everybody's got them. Call me if you run into a  
22 question, you know.

23 Nielsen: Come up.

24 Dunson: My name is Mike Dunson (ph) from Mountaintop Plumbing,  
25 and, uh, the question I got or an idea I have is what

1 about a, a segue license? In other words, a labor  
2 slash, uh, apprentice, a temporary apprentice license  
3 so to speak, six months, I don't know, a 10 buck fee,  
4 but you put them on temporary. Maybe they make it.  
5 Maybe they flush out. Typically I'm going to run them  
6 off pretty hard anyway, so. But the point being as  
7 you bring somebody on board and you can tell, you can  
8 tell right away the first time they grab a, a set of  
9 tools whether they know how to use those tools or not,  
10 whether they're going to make it. Most of them, you  
11 know, they're just used to sitting around and being  
12 masters on the videogames, and they're not so hot once  
13 you get them out in the field.

14  
15 But you know, that might be a little segue. It might  
16 be an answer rather than having to go a full five-year  
17 term on somebody that you want to put your grandson  
18 out there in the ditch and help you for a couple weeks  
19 on a rough-in or on something like that.

20 Nielsen: Well I, I would just ask then wouldn't that be --  
21 because again, as we're doing this we're trying not to  
22 create new forms of licensure or anything else. So  
23 you know, sitting here hearing what you're saying to  
24 me that would be an argument for a one-year, \$10  
25 apprentice registration. You're out 10 bucks if they

1 don't work out but, you know, we're not creating  
2 anything new.

3 Dunson: And it's not so hardline as far as, uh, spook them off  
4 on a, on a five-year program, you know. They are  
5 temporary. At least it gives them -- it gives them an  
6 opportunity to get out, get their feet wet so to  
7 speak, you know, see if it's going to work out or not  
8 before they're, uh, you know, committed because, you  
9 know, quite frankly got a lot of guys especially --  
10 you know, our, our trades been dumbed down. We lost  
11 our trade guys. We're losing them fast between online  
12 and, uh, and the box stores. Uh, everybody's a semi-  
13 expert about it, and we can see that as soon as we get  
14 out in the field.

15  
16 And I'm going to add in as far as testing goes, the  
17 advantage of putting a test -- putting it on test is,  
18 uh, you got gypsy plumbers run in and blow out they're  
19 not going to be able to answer. They're not here to  
20 answer the phone if something fails once they get in  
21 and trim out, you know. Once they, once they get  
22 paid, they're outta there. And so that kind of keeps  
23 us on a set way. Yes, most of us, you know, they're  
24 accountable. We're going to -- we want to be on test.  
25 We want to prove before we approve for cover. We want

1 to know. And yes we're going to answer our phone, and  
2 yes we're going to go out if we have a problem. But  
3 not everybody runs on those same sets of rules.

4 Nielsen: Okay.

5 Dunson: That's about all I got to say.

6 Nielsen: All right. Thanks. Anything else on supervision?  
7 Sticking with apprentice, currently as everybody knows  
8 or should know, an Idaho apprentice needs to be  
9 registered to get his hours to count. So if they're  
10 out there working without a registration, they're not  
11 getting hours towards their journeyman's card or the  
12 qualifications to test.

13

14 An out-of-state person could come in, show eight years  
15 of acting as an apprentice, you know, verify that he  
16 did it legally in the state he comes from, and he can  
17 sit for the journeyman's exam. Does industry feel  
18 that that option should be available for an Idaho guy?  
19 And again, you know, discussing this that we're going  
20 to keep registration, you know, but they don't want to  
21 go to school. They don't want to, they don't want to  
22 take the quicker path. Does industry feel that that  
23 should be an option for the Idaho guys?

24 Hammock: Jack Hammock, Will's Plumbing. And no, John, I don't  
25 think that should be. I think the classes that they

1 attend and the exposure they get through those classes  
2 are an important part of getting them where they need  
3 to be in order to represent this trade. The easier we  
4 make it is great. I mean I'm all, I'm all for easier  
5 as long as it's not at a cost. When we quit educating  
6 them, when we quit requiring that schooling to, to, to  
7 have them register to track their hours, to require  
8 that they attend that school I think is an important  
9 part of representing this trade and providing well for  
10 the cons- -- the, the end consumer so that they're  
11 getting the product that they should be getting.  
12 Inexperienced journeymen turning out is -- I don't  
13 think that's where we want to go.

14 Nielsen: Okay. Anyone else for or against? All right. So  
15 when it comes to the journeyman exam, the practical, a  
16 lot of people think it's -- there's no value in it  
17 because again, you know, everybody's basing this that  
18 they've been out there four years. They went to  
19 school. Is dry fitting some fittings in a lab  
20 somewhere really showing DOPL that these guys are  
21 qualified to plumb? And I mean there's board members  
22 that, you know, go back and forth on it. Industry  
23 goes back and forth on it. Is practical something you  
24 feel we should keep? Um, do something different? Get  
25 rid of it?

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'Cause again, in my opinion I would think the industry knows who can plumb and who can't. And if they can't plumb by the time they're done with four years of school and four years of, you know, OJT and even if they pass the test that he's going to be bouncing around from shop to shop would be my assumption. So anybody's thoughts on practicals?

Patton: Charlie Patton, Patton Plumbing. Yeah, I, I think that's an excellent, um, thing to do, and I'm thankful that they don't have them glue them all together. I mean it's just a waste. But to dry fit these fittings together and down at the college is an excellent resource to do that. Some of the states don't require it, but I think that's, um, a good thing. So I'd put my two cents in for keeping that. And, um, I -- that's, that's, that's my two cents.

Nielsen: Okay.

Gates: Brandon Gates with Selkirk Plumbing. I think, um, you know, it's good to have it as an option but, uh, in -- for the best case scenario would be to have a practice- -- practical that was actually on a job, you know. And I know that you can do that, um, as of now, but it's, you know, it's okay as an option. But dry fitting some fittings together really isn't plumbing,

1           you know.

2

3           But like when you get into a, a house where you have  
4           these structural, you know, you know, things you have  
5           to think past, you know, that really shows that you  
6           can, you can do it and you can pass that practical,  
7           you know. But I think it's okay as an option. Say  
8           you can't -- you know, you don't have a job like that  
9           to do, um, you know, and that's the only option, you  
10          know, you got to get in there. But I think it should  
11          be your last, uh, option for a practical.

12 Nielsen: So let me ask you something. Would you be okay if it  
13           was incorporated into the four years of schooling so  
14           that at the end of the first year they have to show a  
15           certain, you know -- they can glue PVC together.  
16           Second year they have to show they can solder.

17 Gates: I think you -- the schooling part I feel like it's not  
18           that -- like when I went to school we didn't really do  
19           much soldering or anything. We didn't do it at all,  
20           you know. Um, I think the ability to have the on, on-  
21           the-job, you know, experience and actually doing it  
22           and the work it's like that's where it actually shows  
23           you have the talent and the ability other than just oh  
24           this has been done 50 times, you know, in the same  
25           setup. You know, here's a bathroom here, whatever,

1 and your buddy helped you out.

2

3 And I don't know. To me it's just not -- you know, I  
4 was thrown in, you know, while was training and I was  
5 thrown into everything and that's why, you know,  
6 that's why I learned a lot, you know. I don't think -  
7 - plumbing is never just cut, dry, you know. It's --  
8 I mean you're lucky when it's like that. Um, but you  
9 know, in all reality I think the best, you know,  
10 solution would be, you know, get it to where we'd have  
11 to -- the practical would have to be done on an on-  
12 the-job kind of, you know, scenario kind of thing, but  
13 yeah.

14 Nielsen: All right. Thanks.

15 Gates: Yep.

16 Hammock: Can I address you guys?

17 Nielsen: Yes, sir. You can come on up and address anybody  
18 you'd like.

19 Hammock: Okay. Jack Hammock, Will's Plumbing. Um, Chuck  
20 specifically, it may have been you or, or, or to the  
21 team here, when you guys are seeing practicals in the  
22 field is everybody getting through those after one or  
23 two times exposed? Do we have 100 pass after one or  
24 two --

25 Knapp: In the field they do better than in the college.



1 Hammock: Okay.

2 Knapp: In the college at NIC they probably have a 60 percent  
3 pass rate. In fact the reason I stepped out is the  
4 guy who took his today failed. Um, but out in the  
5 field they do do better.

6 Hammock: Is it, is it your team that's setting that?

7 Knapp: Yes.

8 (Crosstalk)

9 Hammock: It, it is, it is part of your team. So you have a 60  
10 percent failure rate. Do they get through it after  
11 the second or third time?

12 Knapp: Yeah, usually.

13 Hammock: Yeah. So everybody gets through after a couple of  
14 exposures too.

15 Knapp: And then after they get their journeyman's card they  
16 go to the next job or two they do (inaudible -  
17 00:51:23).

18 Hammock: Yeah, right. But they're getting, they're, they're  
19 getting through. I guess --

20 Knapp: They're getting through the practical.

21 Hammock: I guess the reason I ask is, is does it bring added  
22 value? And if everybody -- if, if 100 percent are  
23 getting through after two or three exposures, then I'm  
24 not sure that we're seeing added value.

25 Knapp: In my opinion at the college if I don't think there's

1 any value there 'cause you can't -- there's no --

2 Hammock: I would like Rose to be my --

3 Knapp: -- room for, um, clearances for your water closet,  
4 your shower.

5 Hammock: Yeah.

6 Knapp: Um, it's just too small. So you're just compactly  
7 putting all these fixtures on this little platform and  
8 you're dry fitting things together.

9 Hammock: I would like those words used in my quotes. I think  
10 that's, that's a perfect way of saying it. Thank you.  
11 Appreciate it.

12 Nielsen: And that's part of it, Jack is I know down in the  
13 Treasure Valley some of those labs charge. Not all of  
14 them, but some do. So then you as contractors have to  
15 decide do I pay the 150 bucks to get it taken care of  
16 right away, and I know damn good and well you're not  
17 turning him loose on a house the way you guys are  
18 going right now to do it by himself. So it brings up  
19 that cost benefit question. Um, but they are talking,  
20 the board, about trying to blend it in with the  
21 schooling program too so that when they did graduate  
22 the practical portion would be done also. Anybody  
23 have any thoughts on that specific topic? But again -  
24 - oh, come on up.

25 Wideman: I can tell you -- Brett Wideman. I can tell you

1           that's how the State of Washington does it. I know  
2           that, you know, we're not in Washington right now but  
3           that's covered during school. It's a written exam at  
4           the end to get your license, so they've proved it at  
5           that point.

6   Hammock: Well I just want to add too I think the more education  
7           the better but there's nothing like hands-on  
8           experience out there on that job 'cause some kids can  
9           come into a classroom, you know, they get out of high  
10          school. They don't want to go to college. I don't  
11          want to sit here and look at this book, but I'm damn  
12          good and when I get out there with that guy I can work  
13          and plumb. So that's your best education is hands-on  
14          experience out there.

15   Nielsen: So to one more real quick topic on this. To Chuck's  
16          point, you know, 60 percent pass, may, you know --  
17          currently there's nothing in the rule that says what  
18          happens. They just keep taking it over and over. Do  
19          we need to adjust that at all or just, you know, keep  
20          going 'til they pass which again, the second time they  
21          usually pass? And then -- but then you also have to  
22          consider do we want to write up more rules to regulate  
23          spanking people for not passing a practical? So I'll  
24          just leave that one food for thought.

25



1 My cards are back there. Again, if you think of  
2 something tonight, you know, when you're sitting there  
3 having a beer, driving home and you're like oh this is  
4 something I want to talk about, you know, send me an  
5 email.

6 (Crosstalk)

7 Nielsen: What, having the beer and --

8 (Crosstalk)

9 Nielsen: That's our dirty little secret. So we'll move on to  
10 contractors. Um, six years ago, maybe even more,  
11 there was discussion among the board and industry  
12 about creating a master plumber and moving the  
13 business -- you know, right now the contractor that's  
14 your license. It's in your name. You associate it  
15 with a company.

16  
17 There was talk that you roll that over into a master  
18 plumber, but there would be a business license also so  
19 that pretty much anybody could come in, take the  
20 business exam but have to have a qualifying master  
21 plumber under them out in the field to do the work  
22 along with journeymen and apprentices. Is that  
23 something industry feels a need for or -- I mean the  
24 electricians do it now, and I hear the argument well,  
25 you know, people are just going to rent their

1 licenses. Right now you guys can let anybody you want  
2 pull a permit under your license which is, you know,  
3 what we call renting a license.

4  
5 But outside talking about, you know, if you passed  
6 away or something happened and, you know, your wife  
7 was running the business, they're done as far as  
8 pulling permits and continuing on working until they  
9 find somebody to come in with a contractor's license.  
10 But say she took the business exam, she held the  
11 license, you know, she'd still have to find a master  
12 or something to come in and, you know, take over on  
13 that part of it but the business wouldn't be -- it  
14 wouldn't be a sink or swim on the business end of it.

15  
16 Anybody's thoughts on that? And again, this is  
17 30,000-foot level. I don't have the details how it  
18 would all -- you know, we got lots of time to kick it  
19 around, and it doesn't have to be in 2023. But  
20 thoughts on that? I smell a lot of smoke. Come on,  
21 Jack. I know you got an opinion on it.

22 Hammock: Yeah. I'm just not sure it's fully developed. I  
23 don't want to come up here and just stuttering through  
24 it and then, and then -- I do have an opinion on it,  
25 John. I -- my, um -- regularly my concern is added

1 value to the end user and protecting the end user. I  
2 feel that a, uh, encouraging the use of untrained  
3 people to own and operate these businesses is not a  
4 road that we want to go down because people move on.  
5 Um, relationships don't last forever. And as soon as  
6 that licensed person leaves, this business owner is  
7 searching for another license. They really have no  
8 clue of how to solve the mechanical problems. And  
9 that may be fine in a shop that's got 300 people in  
10 it.

11

12 But for the end user, uh, residential general public  
13 where we have shops of three and four and five guys  
14 and, and now the lead journeyman has left and that has  
15 happened in the rental license, um, situations here  
16 where the license moves on and then the shop is left  
17 with nobody with any experience running it and, um,  
18 they're, they're still doing business. They're just  
19 no longer purchasing permits because they have to  
20 function at some level, the machine that they've  
21 built.

22

23 I, I think our current system is a far better system  
24 than to allow, um, that change to take place.

25 Nielsen: Okay. Since nobody's beating a path up here, the next

1 question I have for you is currently to get your  
2 contractor's license you have to hold your  
3 journeyman's license for two and a half years. Then  
4 you'd test for contractor. Out-of-state guys, the  
5 same thing. Even though their hours, you know, they  
6 can sit for the exams, they still have to get their  
7 journeyman's license, and then they can test and get  
8 their contractor's. Does industry see a need to  
9 maintain two licenses? You've gone through the steps  
10 to get your journeyman's card. Do you need to have a  
11 piece of plastic that says journeyman and contractor  
12 on it? Come on up please.

13 Joe: No, I'll just say it. Joe, Aqua Plumbing. I always  
14 wondered why it was contractor and journeyman. Why --  
15 once you pass journeyman, why don't it just be  
16 contractor and that's it on your card?

17 Nielsen: That's a good question, but I've had people say that  
18 they want to see journeyman on that card. You can't  
19 get a contractors without it. But again, then there's  
20 -- then, you know, I get the phone call that well I  
21 didn't know my journeyman expired and closed and my  
22 contractor still had two years on it. Now I got to  
23 test to get my journeyman's back because if my  
24 contractor expires then I'm really out of it. Come on  
25 up.



1 Clair: Scott Clair, Easterly Plumbing. Yeah, 'cause I have,  
2 you know, the journeyman and the contractor's, so I  
3 constantly have to watch which one runs out for my  
4 continued ed. I mean why do I have to take continued  
5 ed on my journeyman's and my contractor's? It's just  
6 -- I just don't understand why. So if we could make  
7 one journeyman and contractor into one license, I  
8 think that would be great. I mean I've, I've plumbed  
9 in Nevada and California, and they just do one  
10 license, contractor/journeyman license. It's just a  
11 lot easier. I just don't understand why they make us  
12 do two.

13 Nielsen: No, appreciate it.

14 Joe: But you'd still need that journeyman --

15 Nielsen: Come up here please.

16 Joe: You'd still need that journeyman card. You already  
17 know you have that, right, before you get that  
18 contractor's on there. So and then would it be still  
19 16 hours of continued education for your contractors?

20 Nielsen: Right now, yes.

21 Joe: Yeah, right now.

22 Nielsen: But, but, you know, and I just say right now because  
23 CEUs is going to be a real coming up topic. But yeah,  
24 basically you'd have your contractor's license, and  
25 you'd have to do 16 hours of continuing education.



1           The only -- and I'm not going to say the only detail  
2           we'd have to figure out is right now you can put your  
3           contractor's license inactive. You know, you're done  
4           running the business but your journeyman's there and  
5           you go work. That would be a simple fix. I'd just  
6           have to figure -- you know, because there's like I  
7           don't know how am I going to put my contractor  
8           inactive? So you could still work. Yes. It would  
9           just be one license. It's currently 16 hours.

10   Hammock: Jack Hammock, Will's Plumbing. John, are we  
11           discussing the two and a half years would still stay  
12           and we would have one license that does both? Or is  
13           there a chance that two and a half years would go  
14           away?

15   Nielsen: Again, Jack, everything is open for discussion.

16   Hammock: Okay.

17   Nielsen: But as it sits right now, nothing would change, you  
18           know, if we went this route, the two and a half years  
19           still stays. You'd still have to pass the test. Just  
20           once you pass the test when you take your -- get a  
21           little journey- -- you know, it'd be like you only  
22           want apprentice under journeyman. I was an  
23           apprentice, but now I'm a journeyman so I got two  
24           things on my card.

25   Hammock: Okay. I just clearly like the two and a half years to

1 stay. Beyond that whether each license -- whether  
2 there's two licenses or one is -- I have no real  
3 interest. One would be just fine if you want to  
4 simplify it. But I would like to see the two and a  
5 half years stay.

6  
7 And, uh, I'd like to bring up the continuing  
8 education. The, um, the biggest waste of, uh, my  
9 career was taking my entire crew to NIC for continuing  
10 education, and I reached out several times to try to  
11 make that as clear as I could to people. Um, that was  
12 not a well-spent evening. Um, I don't care to hear  
13 stories. I don't care to sit down. If we're going to  
14 learn something, we're going to learn something.

15  
16 Continuing education to me has been, um, proving that  
17 I still know what I used to know and not about  
18 learning something new. When we went into continuing  
19 education, I was hoping that -- and was supportive of  
20 us all learning the newest and latest in the trades.  
21 Um, continuing education in my opinion has, uh, um, is  
22 something that, uh, was probably lobbied by for the  
23 people that, um, provide continuing education and I  
24 see, um, whoever at all that is we're signing on the  
25 computer with. But, but it has, um, shamefully

1 brought no added benefit and is absolutely an added  
2 cost and a, uh, a time suck. It's a time suck that  
3 is. Um, unless it's an improved system, I would  
4 strongly suggest that thing go away. And it might be  
5 the most important thing that, um, I have to say  
6 during the course of the conversation.

7 Male 4: Careful what you wish for though, buddy.

8 Nielsen: Anybody else on continuing education?

9 (Crosstalk)

10 Nielsen: Seriously.

11 Riggs: If you do not speak, your voice is not heard.

12 Nielsen: Yep.

13 Riggs: My name is Kurt Riggs and I -- how many times can I  
14 stand at that podium?

15 Nielsen: So there also is another, um, way. You know, some  
16 license groups, they will ask for verification that  
17 you're still working out in the field and count that  
18 towards continuing education. But I'm going to go  
19 with a show of hands right now who would like to get  
20 rid of the continuing education altogether? Let the  
21 record show pretty much everybody, so.

22 Hammock: Well I do the book thing and I don't know how -- it  
23 is. I'm too busy to sit there, and my wife makes me  
24 do it. You have to do this. And I mean all it is is  
25 reading stuff that, you know, you knew 18 years ago

1 and, you know, and it --

2 Male 5: Will your wife do mine for me?

3 Hammock: Huh? Yeah.

4 Male 5: Will your wife do mine for me?

5 Hammock: Yeah. I don't know. We do it 'cause we have to, but  
6 it is. I mean I don't learn anything out of it. You  
7 know, working again -- back to the apprenticeship,  
8 working out in the field is the best thing you can do.  
9 What Brandon was saying, every job that we get on is  
10 almost different than the other ones, so you gotta  
11 think a little bit.

12 Nielsen: All right.

13 Hammock: These guys are going to write me off up here, so you  
14 know. But --

15 Nielsen: No, I appreciate it.

16 Hammock: -- sitting here looking in a book from Florida, you  
17 know, about a trap arm size for, you know.

18 Nielsen: One more topic on the, uh, on contractors. The bond,  
19 does it serve a purpose as far as you're concerned?  
20 Again, the cost-to-benefits of having a \$2,000  
21 appliance bond.

22 Hammock: Have a seat, John. Let me ask you ask.

23 Nielsen: Well thanks, Jack.

24 Hammock: Let me ask you. Um, have you seen that -- how, how  
25 often do you see the bond come into play?

1 Nielsen: I've been between inspecting and everything 17 years  
2 and I seen it happen once and it took like a year to  
3 get it out of him and --

4 Hammock: I would say, I would say let the bond go away.  
5 Hearing -- having that information, let the bond go  
6 away and let them resolve it in the courts where  
7 they're going to resolve it anyways.

8 Nielsen: Well you know, I think people have a misconception  
9 that that bond, you know, you guys go in there, tear  
10 up the house, run off with their money, that that  
11 \$2,000 bond they can just go get it. It's a  
12 compliance bond. So if they put -- if they move the  
13 toilet over two feet and it met code, they don't get  
14 the \$2,000. So and I'm assuming all the contractors  
15 here probably got way more insurance and everything  
16 else, you know, for stuff like that than a bond.

17 Male 6: Yeah, it's kind of frivolous. Yeah. I agree with  
18 that. And my input too would be what about the, uh,  
19 making it insurance, um, instead of a bond? Does that  
20 -- um, I mean that's what makes -- in other states  
21 that's what they do. You're licensed and insurance to  
22 be able to say that you have to have, you know,  
23 300,000, 600,000 or a million liability insurance  
24 before you can go out and plumb and my understanding  
25 is is that's not here.

1 Nielsen: Not as far as DOPL is concerned.

2 Male 6: Yeah. And wouldn't that be something that we could --  
3 you know, if it was required, it's going to, um, make  
4 it a little bit harder for the fly-by-night guys to  
5 come in and make a mess and leave if they have to be --  
6 -- have insurance for liability.

7 Nielsen: Anyone else on this hot topic? So I got one more  
8 question here as far as continuing education, but I'm  
9 not going to ask it since we're going to get rid of  
10 it. So does anybody -- you know, we got 20 minutes.  
11 Does anybody got any other topics they'd like to bring  
12 up? Um, kind of have an open forum.

13 Male 7: Crawlspace (inaudible - 01:08:42) size.

14 Nielsen: That's building.

15 (Crosstalk)

16 Nielsen: All right. With that, I appreciate you guys coming  
17 out, and again, if you think of anything, grab a card.  
18 My email, call me. Prefer if it has to do with the  
19 rules you send me an email 'cause like I said we're  
20 compiling all this information, and if I can show 50  
21 emails saying they don't want continuing education,  
22 they've got it in writing and they can see that and  
23 it's not just me telling --

24 Hammock: I got one thing.

25 Nielsen: -- them.

1 Hammock: I got a question.

2 Nielsen: Sure. Come on up.

3 Hammock: And it's kind of on the heating side of it. But the J  
4 Manual on hydronic and radiant floor heating, I mean I  
5 understand it. It applies more to duct sizing and,  
6 you know, that kind of stuff. But I don't get it on,  
7 uh, hydronic and radiant heat side of it. I mean the  
8 tubing, you know, any more than the manufacturer's  
9 unless you have the software and you got to do that,  
10 manufacturers don't do it anymore. They're too busy.  
11 They don't have time with everything going on in the  
12 world right now. And a lot of times when we do a slab  
13 they don't know what the -- the owner or the builder  
14 don't even know what they're doing yet in there. So  
15 when we roll that tubing out I mean to get that permit  
16 we're supposed to pull that J Manual and all that  
17 stuff. I, I -- like again, I see it on the ductwork  
18 sides of it, but I don't see it on the hydronics side  
19 of it, you know.

20 Nielsen: So the -- you know, the whole point of it is to make  
21 sure no matter how they're heating that house whether  
22 it's electric heat, hydronics, forced air, that that  
23 system is meeting a certain temperature point and  
24 that, you know, the envelope and everything meets the  
25 standards to get that. So that's why, you know, if

1           you put in a hydronics system, a closed-loop system  
2           and that's the only source of heat, based on the HVAC  
3           statutes you have to provide a Manual J.

4   Hammock: Yeah. It just -- I mean like a -- again, I understand  
5           it for duct sizing but I mean if you got half-inch  
6           five-eighths tubing that you're rolling around in  
7           there and that is covered up, I have to have these  
8           guys out and look at it before we cover it up and I  
9           roll the tubing out, um, unless I have the computer  
10          software that I have to make in and send in to you  
11          guys and \$100 fee there or if the manufacturer does  
12          not. And like I say, they don't even do it anymore.  
13          Um, and it's covered up I mean what is there to really  
14          -- I mean, you know. I know where to put the tubing  
15          'cause that's my job is to do that, and I'm going to  
16          heat that home, you know. But I, I guess I just don't  
17          -- it leans more towards the HVAC side to me than it  
18          does the hydronic and the radiant side of it.

19   Nielsen: And that's the way -- I mean it, it is. That's why  
20           you do it because it's an HVAC system.

21   Hammock: Yeah. And in the HVAC guys bid --

22   Nielsen: You know, the source --

23   (Crosstalk)

24   Nielsen: But again that's --

25   Hammock: -- and the radiant guys can, you know --



1 Nielsen: -- that's being kicked around on the heat side, you  
2 know, when we have these town hall meetings too.  
3 They're asking them do you feel like Manual S, J and D  
4 is relevant and are life safety? Again, boiling it  
5 down.

6 Hammock: Yeah.

7 Nielsen: You know, on the state we -- a lot of people use that  
8 as an energy, you know, to force the energy side. We  
9 look at it that we just want to make sure the heating  
10 system works, the, you know, envelope --

11 Hammock: Right. And it protects --

12 Nielsen: But if you want to fire that boiler up and have it 90  
13 degrees in there when it's two degrees outside, that's  
14 your money, not ours.

15 Hammock: Yeah.

16 Nielsen: So again, if, you know, if you feel that the  
17 implementation of Manual J's on plumbers is something  
18 you don't want to deal with, send me an email. And  
19 again that's all up for discussion on the HVAC side  
20 too.

21 Hammock: Okay. Excellent. Thank you.

22 Nielsen: Anything else? Going once, twice. Thanks for coming.  
23 Sorry it's a little warm in here. I guess they  
24 haven't had A/C for a couple months waiting on parts  
25 or something but --

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DATED this 22nd day of September, 2021.

  
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