



Testimony of Shad Evans
In Opposition to R.C. 3723.081
President, The Ohio Association of Radon Professionals
Before the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee
May 3, 2019

Thank you Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance committee for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Shad Evans and I join you today as the President of the Ohio Association of Radon Professionals and as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists.

I am here today testifying in opposition to the addition of R.C. 3723.081 into House Bill 166. The language the committee added to the bill yesterday, if enacted, would prohibit the Director of the Ohio Department of Health from requiring a licensed radon mitigation specialist to be physically present for supervision purposes when radon mitigation is performed. This addition directly conflicts with the Administrative Code, specifically, OAC rule 3701-69-02 (A) (3) AND ORC 3723.02 (A) (3).

To fully grasp the likely well-intentioned, but misguided change the bill seeks it's important to understand a few facts about Radon.

As outlined by the U.S. EPA, Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. It is recognized as a known carcinogen. Radon gas is inert, colorless and odorless, and most of people's radon exposure occurs inside homes, schools and workplaces.

In Ohio you are 17% more likely to get lung cancer than the US average. Nationally, indoor radon gas is the #1 cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the #2 cause overall as stated by the Surgeon General, EPA and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Elevated levels of indoor radon gas are common in all 88 counties, with 55 counties having a predicted average indoor radon screening levels greater than 4.4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and the remaining counties having predicted average indoor radon screening levels from 2 to 4 pCi/L. DNA in the lungs becomes damaged at 2.7 - 5pCi/L. - data which is also supported by the OSUCCC-The James.

To that end, there are several reasons we strongly opposed this addition to the budget bill:

1. Having a licensed radon professional onsite helps to ensure the proper installation of a radon mitigation system. Removing the requirement of a licensed radon mitigation specialist to be onsite will void requirements (safety checks) throughout the 3701-69 Radon Standards, currently required to be performed by a licensed radon mitigation specialist at the time of completion of the radon mitigation system.
2. Having a licensed radon professional onsite improves efficiency, eliminating the need for repeated visits back to the home, business, school or other facility. During the installation of a radon system, obstacles are discovered which are unknown when visual and/or phone estimates are completed. The “installers” make decisions that affect the efficiency of the operation and effectiveness on the radon system. Therefore, being a licensed mitigation specialist and remaining on site is crucial so that correct decisions are being made to protect the occupant from the impact of radon gas and the potential for lung cancer.
3. The Ohio Revised Code identifies radon gas as a hazardous material along with lead-based paint, asbestos, and urea-formaldehyde foam insulation ORC 5302.30 (D) (1).
4. Similar industries have onsite licensing requirements in place, such as the Home Inspectors Association and the recently passed House Bill 211 that will also require licensed professionals on the job. (House Bill 211, beginning with page 55).

Eliminating the requirement to have a licensed radon mitigation specialist be physically present for supervision endangers the integrity of the radon industry, and more importantly may endanger the health and safety of Ohio citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement. We welcome any questions.