



Testimony of Tony McDonald
In Opposition to R.C. 3723.081
President – A-Z Radon Services, LLC.
Vice President – American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists
Before the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee
May 6, 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 Tony McDonald and I would like to address you today as both a radon professional and an elected vice president of the radon industry's national trade organization, 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 which could potentially allow untrained individuals to install radon mitigation systems without the necessary training. This training and required supervision is vital to consumer protection because incorrectly installed mitigation systems are a danger to building occupants.

I, along with my colleagues, other stakeholders and the regulators in the radon department at the Ohio Department of Health, have spent almost two years working together to produce an update to the laws and procedures governing our industry. During this process, the proposed language in R.C 3723.081 was considered by both industry and ODH over a year ago. It was soundly rejected by both groups at that time.

As a business owner I oppose this language because it would only eliminate several hours of training that all installation technicians need to do their job competently. I do not consider 3 days of training to be onerous. Other skilled trades, like plumbers and electricians, have to complete years of experience before they can supervise a job site. If anything, the currently required training should be expanded.

I also oppose this language as the vice president of our trade organization. I have witnessed the danger to public health that this lack of training has produced in other states. I have seen

untrained installers cut holes through structural roofing components which would have failed catastrophically if gone unnoticed. I have witnessed structural flooring components removed because the installer did not know better. Once these types of mistakes are made, they are not easily fixed. They require invasive repairs that cost significantly more than the training this language would eliminate.

The rule change proposed in R.C. 3723.081 has already been discussed, debated, voted on and rejected by the industry stakeholders. This attempt to insert this language into an unrelated budget bill is nothing more than a feeble attempt by a small group to subvert the rule revision process. I ask you to reject this proposed language as unwarranted and in conflict with protecting public health.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony today. I welcome any questions you might have.