



February 16th, 2024

The Honorable Curtis King
Washington Senate
PO Box 40414
Legislative Building, LEG 414
Olympia, WA 98504-0414

The Honorable Liz Berry
Washington House of Representatives
PO Box 40600
John L. O'Brien Building, JLOB 327
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Suzanne Schmidt
Washington House of Representatives
PO Box 40600
John L. O'Brien Building, Room 468
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Mary Fosse
Washington House of Representatives
PO Box 40600
John L. O'Brien Building, JLOB 368
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: SB 5997 / HB 2412 – Making technical corrections to plumbing supervision and trainee hours reporting.

Dear Sen. King, Rep. Schmidt, and the House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee Members,

On behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA), we are writing to you regarding SB 5997/HB 2412. WQA is a not-for-profit trade association with over 2,500 member companies representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry, including manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, and dealers of this technology. As a leader in the point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) drinking water treatment system industry, the association urges the committee to amend the bill to reinstate the exclusion of water softening and water treatment equipment within the definition of plumbing.

WQA and our members play a crucial role in upholding the health and safety of the public's drinking water supplies by providing technologies that are readily deployable and effective at reducing drinking water contaminants, making them indispensable tools in ongoing efforts to improve water quality. As such, the ability of water treatment professionals to operate effectively and efficiently is paramount to safeguarding the well-being of communities across Washington. However, in 2020, SB 6170 altered the landscape for water treatment companies. The law amended the definition of "plumbing" and created new requirements for the installation of water softening and treatment equipment by accidentally removing an existing exemption. This change has placed a substantial burden on the water treatment industry, particularly in adhering to the rigorous plumbing licensure mandates.

The plumbing industry is different from the water treatment industry and requires a different set of skills and education. Thus, the technical corrections proposed below for SB 5997/HB 2412 are instrumental in rectifying the unintended challenges faced by water treatment companies. By reinstating the exemption and addressing the pertinent concerns surrounding the installation requirements, this amendment will



2375 Cabot Drive
Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
Phone 630-505-0160
Fax 630-505-963
<https://wqa.org/>



foster a more conducive environment for the industry to operate efficiently while upholding the highest water quality and consumer safety standards.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and believe the amendment below will remove a significant obstacle and barrier for those conducting business in the state. As always, please let us know if you have any questions about the amendment or water quality issues. WQA would welcome any opportunity to serve as a resource to you and the committee.

Sincerely,

Jordan Kari

Jkari@wqa.org

Government Affairs Manager

Water Quality Association (WQA)

Draft Legislative Language

Sec. 1. RCW 18.106.010 and 2021 c 65 s 15 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(9) "Plumbing" means that craft involved in installing, altering, repairing, and renovating potable water systems, liquid waste systems, and medical gas piping systems within a building as defined by the plumbing code as adopted and amended by the state building code council, and includes all piping, fixtures, pumps, and plumbing appurtenances that are used for rainwater catchment and reclaimed water systems within a building. **Installation in a water system of water softening or water treatment equipment is not within the meaning of plumbing as used in this chapter.**



2375 Cabot Drive
Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
Phone 630-505-0160
Fax 630-505-963
<https://wqa.org/>