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May 24, 2023

**TO:** Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economy, and Small Business Development  
**FROM:** Mike Tierney, Legislative Liaison, Department of Safety and Professional Services  
**RE:** CR 23-006 – related to plumbing and plumbing products and affecting small business.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for holding this hearing on CR-23-006. Tony Martin from our Division of Industry Services is joining me today.

Chapters SPS 381 to 387, referred to collectively as the “Wisconsin Plumbing Code”, apply uniformly to the design, construction, installation, supervision, maintenance, and inspection of plumbing, including POWTS, sanitary and storm drainage, water supplies, wastewater treatment, dispersal, or discharge for buildings, as well as plumbing products. The plumbing code is uniform in application, meaning municipalities may not enact ordinances that are more stringent, except as specifically permitted. Wisconsin’s plumbing regulations were last comprehensively updated in 2018.

This proposed rule was developed in consultation with the Plumbing Code Advisory Committee. Beginning in December 2020, the Plumbing Code Advisory Committee held several meetings to comprehensively review proposals presented by the Department’s Division of Industry Services Plumbing Section, committee members, stakeholders, and the public.

While Wisconsin does not adopt a nationally recognized model plumbing code, the proposed rule incorporates several nationally recognized technical standards, most of which are also incorporated in the model plumbing codes. This rulemaking updates technical standards, either incorporated by reference or permitted for use, to align Wisconsin’s rules with national standards and best practices for safe plumbing systems.

The committee and the Department also analyzed changes in updated versions of the technical standards incorporated by reference in the rule, while also being cognizant of costs associated with any added requirements and plumbing requirements in surrounding states. The proposed rules reflect recommendations based on these analyses and include several proposed changes that permit flexibility for the design, construction, and installation of plumbing systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this rule. We would be glad to address questions.