

The Honorable Jim Haadsma
Chair of the Labor Committee

September 23, 2024

Dear Representative, Haadsma

I am the President of the Plumbing Inspectors Association of Michigan, as well as a plumbing inspector for the City of Lansing. I am very interested in the proposed changes coming to the Skilled Trades Act. As you know, over the last few years, the quality of plumbing being installed has dramatically dropped. As a plumbing inspector, I have personally seen a decline in craftsmanship, resulting in increased correction notices. We feel it may have been caused by a lack of professional instruction in the field and too many plumbing apprentices to supervise at one time.

We, the PIAM, feel that a ratio between journeymen and apprentices needs to be put in place. It would give the journeyman a closer look at the apprentice's work, with more instruction given. The journeyman would be able to oversee the apprentice's performance more closely, making them more knowledgeable. The result would be better plumbers and better overall quality of work. A more educated plumbing staff means faster completion times, keeping costs lower for the end user, along with a higher level of safety on the job. We would absolutely be in favor of 2 apprentices to 1 journeyman ratio.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael Thompson

President of Plumbing Inspectors Association of America
Plumbing Inspector, City of Lansing