



# State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors

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## As I See It . . .

By Sandra O'Brien, Executive Director

We at the State Board have been well aware of SB1217 and the impact that it will have on the state. Our goal to protect the public is sometimes difficult when we cannot be involved in Lobbying. So we were very proud of the Task Force led by the North Carolina Heating Air Conditioning Contractors Association (NCHACCA) that stepped forward and from the very beginning tried to fight this legislation. Early on they were the only major association to realize what this legislation would actually do and the harm it could create. Our participation could only be providing information and we did work hard at giving information to the Task Force and their lobbyist whenever it was requested. We participated in meetings with the Retail Association, NCHACCA and Senator Clodfelter.

SB772 (this session) was introduced to repeal SB1217 (last session). When it became apparent that repeal was impossible since the bill was being held in committee, NCHACCA worked strenuously to at least have some safeguards for the public. They succeeded in doing this but the Retailers are still exempt from our statutes.

You have to understand the legislative process, which is sometimes difficult, but if they (Task Force) had not signed

off (a bitter pill to swallow) when they did, there would have been no safeguards for the public or the contractors.

The Task Force in their endeavor to defeat SB1217 by repeal via SB772 did a fine job. They moved forward quickly and lobbied hard to achieve all the goals set out by the coalition of contractors. Their loyalty to you the contractors and the public was undeniable. Many hours were taken away from their own businesses and spent on the phone, in meetings and at the Capitol. They needed support from thousands of you and that's what they got. I was very impressed. It was the first time since coming to the Board in 1999 I have seen so many contractors unite behind a cause and it was such an important one.

As an outsider, not associated with any trade association, it appears to me that the interest of the plumbing and heating industry would be best served by uniting all contractors. Don't listen to those that would keep you divided - your futures and the public good will hinge on what you do.

I cannot praise the Task Force high enough for their efforts put forth to protect the public.

*Footnote: NCHACCA is renaming its association to Mechanical Contractors of North Carolina*



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### TAKE NOTE:

- ♦ You must have 4 of your 6 CE hours in Board approved classes dealing with NC Code by 12/31/2003.
- ♦ Check your CE hours online by clicking "Continuing Education" at [www.nclicensing.org](http://www.nclicensing.org)

To view SB 772 go to the General Assemblies home page located at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homePage.pl> and type SB772 in the Bill look-up box for the final chaptered version.