

April 1, 2025

Honorable Dave Baker  
Co-Chair, House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy

Honorable Dave Pinto  
Co-Chair, House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy

Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto,

We write today to express the concerns of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association, Operating Engineers Local 49, and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association regarding House File 2882 (Baker), a bill to exempt certain contractors from Department of Labor and Industry plan review and inspection requirements.

Specifically, we're concerned for two reasons.

First, the bill would eliminate the need to hold a Plumbing License for certain work that currently requires that license.

For many years, our organizations have held firmly to the principle that any legislation that diminishes professional licenses in the skilled trades should happen only after robust stakeholder input and consideration that leads to a broad consensus that such diminishment is in the public interest.

To our knowledge, key stakeholders such as our organizations, the Board of Plumbing, and the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) weren't consulted.

Next, this bill would wholly divest DLI of oversight and place all oversight and regulation in the hands of the Department of Health (MDH).

While we respect the professionals who work within MDH, they simply lack expertise and experience regarding the Plumbing Code and other technical matters inherent to bringing wells online.

While this legislation may have merit, we must respectfully oppose it in the absence of stakeholder consultation, consideration and agreement.

Sincerely,

*Andrew R Campeau*

Andy Campeau  
President  
MN Pipe Trades Association



John Pollard  
Political Director  
IUOE Local 49



Ryan SanCartier  
Govt. Affairs Director  
MN Mechanical Contractors





Dear Members,

April 2, 2025

I support this bill because it reduces regulatory burdens and streamlines the permitting and inspection process for our work.

There are 220 licensed drillers in the state of MN. I am one of them. I own a fifth generation drilling company providing commercial and municipal drilling installation and repair, along with fracking and geothermal drilling in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. By comparison, there are over 11,000 licensed electricians. Drilling is a highly specialized, often multi-generational profession with a close-knit network of dedicated professionals. Minnesota upholds some of the highest drilling standards in the nation. Rather than increased regulation, what drillers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and neighboring states truly need is less bureaucracy. We don't cut corners, rush installations, or use inferior materials. Doing the job right the first time is both an ethical imperative and a financial necessity.

This is how the bill will help drillers:

1. **Exemption from Additional Oversight** – The bill exempts licensed well contractors from the Department of Labor and Industry's plan review and inspection requirements. This means less paperwork, fewer delays, and reduced costs associated with regulatory compliance.
2. **Clarification of Licensing Exemptions** – The bill explicitly states that well contractors who are already licensed and bonded under existing statutes do not need additional contractor licenses, registrations, or bonds. This removes unnecessary redundancy in licensing requirements.

3. **Faster Project Timelines** – By eliminating extra approval steps, well drillers can complete installations more efficiently without waiting for additional inspections or plan reviews from the Department of Labor and Industry.
4. **Cost Savings** – Reducing licensing, bonding, and inspection requirements lowers operational costs, making it more affordable for well drillers to conduct business.
5. **Increased Business Opportunities** – With fewer regulatory hurdles, well contractors can take on more projects and compete more effectively in the market without being slowed down by administrative red tape.

This bill will simplify compliance for well drillers while still ensuring safety and construction standards through existing licensing and bonding requirements. As an expert in this profession, I fully support this legislation.

Respectfully,

David M. Beecroft, President/Owner DMB Drilling

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Shell Lake, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Water Well Association Board, Director

