

Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

RE: Support of SB 2702 – Backflow Prevention

Dear Honorable Members of the Texas House of Representatives:

On behalf of the undersigned representing the plumbing and mechanical industry in Texas, we write in strong support of SB 2702. We believe this legislation presents a practical and responsible step toward allowing an alternative pathway for Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers in Texas, reducing workforce barriers, and expanding access for qualified professionals—without compromising the safety of our drinking water systems.

As you may be aware, backflow prevention professionals in Texas must pass a unique state exam and obtain a license from the TCEQ. However, there exists nationally recognized certifications that provide consistent competency standards from organizations based on the needs of the industry. SB 2702 seeks to align Texas by allowing the TCEQ to recognize these nationally recognized certifications.

The ASSE Series 5110 certification is one of several nationally recognized professional qualification standards for cross-connection control and backflow prevention professionals. It meets rigorous standards, including both hands-on and written exams aligned with USC's 10th edition field test procedures—the same procedures utilized by the TCEQ—and is widely adopted by training providers nationwide. This certification has already been recognized by 27 states, including neighboring Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, without any reported issues or threats to public water supplies. In addition, ASSE 5000 Cross-Connection Control Professional Qualification Standard is overseen by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) and ensures a non-interested third-party review of the standard process and testing. No other organization has such oversight.

We understand that concerns have been raised about whether national certifications like ASSE meet TCEQ's high standards. It could be argued that an individual holding an ASSE certification to test backflow assemblies would not only meet the TCEQ standards but exceed them. The ASSE certification exceeds the TCEQ standards because it has a third-party review process and utilizes independent proctors during testing, while also maintaining the flexibility for the workforce to operate in other states as needed.

By passing SB 2702, Texas can maintain its commitment to public health while supporting a more efficient and mobile skilled workforce. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,