

Monday March 21, 2016

Testimony in favor of H867

We (my wife and I) are unable to attend hearings on discussion surrounding H867 this week. We do hope that the following statement will be read in committee and taken under consideration by the members.

H867 is one of the sharpest and most clearly written pieces of legislation presented in recent memory. It inclusively and thoroughly defines the contractor and subcontractor relationship.

I have been a sole proprietor/sole employee floor covering and ceramic tile installer for over 20 years. A self employed tradesman. I carry my own health insurance policy.

Here is what has really happening in our world WITHOUT H867 (precise definitions) in place:

Unintended Consequences.....

I perform subcontracted work for LaValley Building Supply and many other small general contractors in the VT/NH Upper Valley area.

The VT laws -as they are written now- are too vague. LaValleys and all VT general contractors and their insurance carriers I have dealt with will NOT accept VT W/C waiver because the roles of the subcontractor/contractor are not clear as written. That is their interpretation. They are requiring coverage. This forces me to purchase a "ghost" W/C policy....aimed at providing coverage for a theoretical employee I may bring to a given job site . Understand....the "ghost" policy I purchase does not cover me. If I don't purchase this policy, I don't work in VT. I pay \$600-\$1000 a year for my "ghost" policy.

This is allot of money each year, for bogus coverage, that a small business needs to absorb. We can ill afford this.

It is critical to understand that the only group benefitting from the current, blurry laws are the insurance companies. The insurance companies have a stranglehold on both subs and generals, interpreting the laws to their financial benefit.

The well crafted H867 takes away vagaries and will not allow a free for all interpretation of the law. H867 will force insurance companies, general contractors to accept waivers with allot less room for mis-interpretation.

Thank you for the oppportunity to share my real life experience. Please contact me with any questions you may have.
Please vote yes for this bill.

Keith Hanson- Sole Proprietor
Keith Hanson Floorcovering
White River Jct., VT Mary Hanson-Spouse