

**William Sprague**

Rockford, IL | ☎

| [b.sprague@areamechanical.com](mailto:b.sprague@areamechanical.com) | November 21, 2025

**Sprague**

City of Rockford IL Mechanical Board

Attn: Christina Hargrove

Dear Ms. Hargrove,

I am writing to express my continued interest in serving as a member of the Mechanical Board. With over 36 years of experience in the trades as a licensed journeyman plumber, co-owner of one of Rockford's largest mechanical contracting firms, and current president of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, I bring a unique combination of technical expertise, leadership, and industry perspective.

Throughout my career, I have maintained all mechanical licenses in Rockford since 2011, including my cross-connection control license. My work has consistently emphasized safe installation practices, regulatory compliance, and advancing sustainable technologies such as geothermal systems. Having come from non-union roots while now owning a union shop, I offer a balanced and unbiased viewpoint that reflects the diversity of our industry.

I am deeply committed to the mechanical trades and believe my background equips me to contribute meaningfully to the Mechanical Board's mission. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my experience, dedication, and collaborative approach to this important role.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the possibility of serving the Rockford community through the Mechanical Board.

Sincerely,  
William Sprague

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## Professional Summary

Experienced mechanical contractor and journeyman plumber with 33+ years in the trades, including apprenticeship, licensure, and leadership roles. Co-owner of one of Rockford's largest mechanical contracting firms. Proven expertise in plumbing, mechanical systems, geothermal installation, and regulatory compliance. Recognized for diverse industry experience, non-union roots, and union shop ownership, bringing a balanced and unbiased perspective to mechanical industry governance.

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## Professional Experience

### Co-Owner

*Area Mechanical Inc, Rockford, IL*

*DBA Gilley's Heating and Air w/ Plumbing Services*

*DBA Commercial Refrigeration of Central Illinois*

[2020 – Present]

- Co-manage operations of one of Rockford's largest mechanical contracting firms.
- Oversee projects, workforce management, and compliance with mechanical codes and standards.
- Provide strategic leadership to ensure safe and efficient mechanical installations.

### Journeyman Plumber

*Licensed Plumber #058-123902*

[1989 – Present]

- 41 years of trade experience, including 5 years of apprenticeship.
- Skilled in installation, repair, and maintenance of plumbing, HVAC and other mechanical systems.
- Maintain all mechanical licenses in Rockford since 2011.

### President

*Geothermal Alliance of Illinois*

[2009 – Present]

- Lead statewide initiatives to establish testing standards and safe installation practices for geothermal systems.
  - Collaborate with contractors, regulators, and industry stakeholders to advance geothermal technology.
  - Advocate for sustainable energy solutions and regulatory compliance.
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## **Licenses & Certifications**

- Mechanical Licenses (Rockford) — License #420-11 (since 2011)
  - Cross-Connection Control License — License #XC3415
  - Journeyman Plumber — License #058-123902
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## **Leadership & Industry Involvement**

- Active in mechanical industry governance and advocacy.
  - Experienced contractor/owner with unique perspective from both non-union background and union shop ownership.
  - Committed to advancing safe practices, fair representation, and industry diversity.
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## **Additional Background**

- Family farm operator, maintaining strong ties to agricultural community.
- Diverse professional background combining trades expertise, business ownership, and industry leadership.