

TESTIMONY OF DAVID J. WASKOWICZ
CHAIRMAN, FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER
SYSTEMS WORK EXAMINING BOARD
BEFORE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 6375

MARCH 16, 2009

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my name is David Waskowicz. I am a licensed sprinkler fitter in the state of Connecticut and the Chairman of the Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board for the state of Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you seriously consider keeping the Fire Protection Board as an active tool in the toolbox of the Department of Consumer Protection and not eliminating it as well as the five other occupational licensing boards. This is part of the proposal included in House Bill No. 6375. Those other boards that should also not be eliminated are Heating and Cooling, Electrical, Elevator, Plumbing and Flat Glass. Each and every occupational board that I have mentioned involves the safety and protection of the public and the consumer as well as providing a service.

The board that I chair is comprised of nine members. I and another are journeyman sprinkler fitters, two are sprinkler contractors, one is from the state fire marshals office, one is a local fire marshal and three of the members represent the public. As you can see the make up of the board is diverse and has knowledge of the fire protection field and input from the public members. When there is a hearing or a complaint who better to serve the public than the board that the legislators that came before you had the insight to put in place.

Under these difficult financial times the state is looking at anything to try and trim the deficit. I would like to point out that the boards are made up of volunteers who are only compensated for gas expense when we meet every other month. There is some clerical expense incurred by the department but it is far outweighed by the service that the board provides to the public.

In closing, I ask that you take a serious look at maintaining the occupational licensing boards. The nine members of the Fire Protection Board can look at the issue before them and with several different views and perspectives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill No. 6375.

David J. Waskowicz