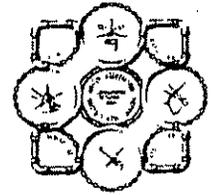


LOCAL UNION 676 U.A.

SPRINKLER FITTERS and APPRENTICES OF CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND & WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Testimony of David J. Waskowicz
Chairman, Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board
Before General Law Committee

February 5, 2009

Senator Colapietro, Senator Witkos, Representative Shapiro, Representative Bacchiochi and the members of the General Law Committee, my name is David J. Waskowicz and I am a licensed sprinkler fitter in the state of Connecticut and the Chairman of the Fire Protection Sprinkler System Work Examining Board for the State of Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection..

I want to ask you for your support for House Bill number 5220, an Act concerning the Enforcement of Certain Professional and Occupational Licensing, Certification and Registration Laws.

As a citizen of the State of Connecticut and board member for eleven years as well as Chairman, I feel qualified to comment on this proposal. When this bill was modified to include the "class B misdemeanor" language, some of the boards or commissions duties were shifted over to the commissioner. I believe the intent was not to take away any of the board's authority but it was to get the class B misdemeanor implemented as another tool of enforcement.

The commissioner's time could be better utilized in performing his other duties than having to do those duties that were done by the various boards that are appointed by the Governor.

I am of the firm belief that if you have the citizens of this great state volunteering their time in service to the consumers on the various boards and commissions, their service should be utilized to the fullest. The Commissioner's time is too valuable to be conducting hearings and imposing fines. The final review of hearings and fines still lies with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill 5220.

David J. Waskowicz