



February 10, 2009

Re: General Assembly Proposed House Bill No. 5567
An Act Concerning Blasting near Residential Properties

To the Distinguished Members of the Public Safety Committee:

Manafort Brothers Incorporated strongly opposes HB 5567 and urges the Committee to defeat the bill. As a user of high explosives for over 20 years, we submit that the current statues, local ordinances and licensing requirements are more than adequate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Current licensing by the U.S. Department of Justice (ATF), State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety and Local Fire Marshall Permitting provide for critical oversight of all persons who transport, possess and use high explosives.

It is industry standard to provide pre-blast and post-blast surveys of all structures within 500 feet of a blasting zone, further protecting public safety.

Modern blasting techniques which include, but are not limited to, time delay charges, blasting mat protection and seismograph monitoring further protect abutting structures from damage during blasting.

It is my opinion there are adequate safeguards in place to protect the public during blasting operations and that this proposed amendment is redundant with current regulations.

Sincerely,

David Manafort

David Manafort
Vice President

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