



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Office of The Fire Marshal
Donn V. Dobson Fire Marshal

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Hello my name is Donn Dobson & I am the Fire Marshal for the Town of Old Saybrook.

I am here to speak in favor of Raise Bill **6289 AN ACT SHIELDING FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT INSTALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS FROM LIABILITY**. I have been before you speaking on the merits of Smoke Detection & Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Our Office and associated agencies within the Town of Old Saybrook have been trying to be proactive in distributing Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detection or batteries associated with these detectors. This past November 2008, I had a fire in Old Saybrook where a dog alerted the family that there was a fire in the house. The house was destroyed but the family got out safely. They were lucky. We found through the investigation that there was **NO WORKING** smoke detection in the house.

This past December 2008 was one of the deadliest months in Connecticut fire history. The month of December 2008 saw 10 people lose their lives to fire alone. This is in a state that averages 30-35 fire fatalities annually. Many of these fires could have been prevented; with a \$ 7.00 smoke detector. We find this to be true in these hard economic times with families are having a hard time putting keeping jobs. Many of these houses did not have working smoke detection. Many Fire Departments around the state try to be diligent about providing homes in the cities and towns have working smoke detection. However, many communities do not provide any smoke or carbon monoxide detectors due to liability. We would like to change that and make it so more communities can provide detectors help get the number of fatal fire down to zero.