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UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Our 4,500 members serve in 50 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **OPPOSITION** to **H.B. No. 5332 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENFIELD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.**

The Town of Enfield presently has 5 fire districts within its' jurisdiction; Enfield, Thompsonville, Shaker Pines, North Thompsonville and Hazardville. These fire districts currently provide fire protection and fire prevention services to the residents of Enfield.

The text of HB 5332 provides for the following on page 2;

(2) At the meeting called for the purpose of establishing the district as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the voters may establish the district for any or all of the following purposes: **To extinguish fires**, to light streets, to plant and care for shade and ornamental trees, to plan, lay out, acquire, construct, maintain and finance roads, sidewalks, crosswalks, drains, sewers and sewage treatment facilities, utility improvements and connections, parking facilities, open space, bulkhead repairs, dredging and construction, environmental remediation and other infrastructure improvements and to acquire, construct, maintain and regulate the use of recreational facilities, to plan, lay out, acquire, construct, reconstruct, repair, maintain, supervise and manage a flood or erosion control system, and to plan, lay out, acquire, construct, maintain, operate, finance and regulate the use of a community water system, all as hereinafter referred to as the "improvements".

It is unclear to us why this legislation would provide for the establishment of a district to provide for the "extinguishment of fires" when 5 such districts already exist in the Town of Enfield. This seems to be redundant and we would oppose such action.

We urge your opposition of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault
Legislative/Political Affairs