

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT
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PAUL J. RAPANAULT
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February 18, 2010

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security 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 4,000 members serve in 50 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **OPPOSE H.B. No. 5156 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISMISSAL OF LOCAL FIRE MARSHALS.**

Fire Marshals interpret and enforce the state fire code. For this purpose, fire marshals have been protected from undue influence by statute. By permitting local municipalities to hire fire marshals as 'at will employees', the state would invite the possibility of local interference with the sworn duty of the fire marshal to enforce the fire code in a fair and unbiased manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Rapanault', written over a horizontal line.

Paul J Rapanault
Legislative/Political Affairs