



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 2, 2011

Senator Steve Cassano, Co-Chair Planning & Development Committee
Representative Linda Gentile, Co-Chair Planning & Development Committee
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

Subject: **HOUSE BILL #5053**

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association is opposed to **Proposed House Bill #5053, AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE POLICE PATROLS**, as proposed.

Our Association represents approximately 27,000 career and volunteer firefighters in the State of Connecticut.

Connecticut General Statute's section 7-323r provides for grant awards for local volunteer fire companies that provide emergency response services on designated highways in Connecticut. Our Association feels that the intent of the original legislation was to provide these grants to municipal-based fire companies because there is/was no "State Fire Department" to respond to highway incidents. We do **NOT** feel that the legislative intent was to provide grants to civilian entities.

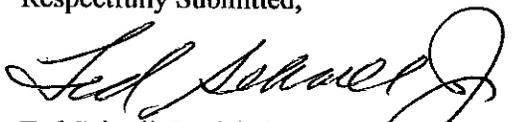
Connecticut General Statutes 7-313a provides for the definition and explanation of duties of fire police "officers" in Connecticut. That statute assumes that fire police officers are members of a municipal fire department. These officers are appointed by "the authorities having the supervision of the fire department" within a municipality and they shall "perform the duties in such municipality or district as designated and authorized by the Fire Chief of such municipality". It does not seem to make any reference to "Fire Police Patrols".

The legislative language of H.B. #5053, as proposed, does not mention that these patrols are required to be part of a municipal fire department. We are not aware of any reference or definition in statute pertaining to Fire Police Patrols. We feel that the language of this legislation is too vague, and would allow for the awarding of these grants to any civilian group calling itself a "Fire Police Patrol".

We would suggest that before any Fire Police Patrol is authorized to receive any supplemental grant funding from this program that they be a part of a municipal-based volunteer fire company. It does not seem fair that one municipality should receive funding twice. It does not seem plausible that the State of Connecticut would provide these grants to a private entity that is not part of a municipal-based fire company. That was not the intent of the original legislation.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,


Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association