

March 3, 2011

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

Re: Raised Bill No. 6378

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you on this very important issue.

By way of introduction, my name is Brian Duford. I have been a fire sprinkler installer for 38 years, having worked all those years in southeastern Connecticut. I have an F-1 license, meaning that my license is unlimited for installing fire protection systems in commercial, industrial, and residential facilities.

I am here today in support of Raised Bill number 6378, and the change to the Bill calling for the installation of automatic fire extinguishing systems in one or two family buildings. I would like to specifically speak on the benefits of sprinkler systems in residential facilities.

In addition to the obvious life-saving properties of installing sprinklers, I believe this change will help to make the sprinkler installation trade a sustainable one, such as we find in other construction trades. Currently, most sprinkler applications target commercial and/or industrial facilities. The introduction of residential applications will help promote sprinkler installation jobs within Connecticut. As such, it only stands to reason that the creation of these jobs will help to bolster our ailing economy here in Connecticut.

While the sprinkler installation trade requires a rigorous 4-year apprenticeship and passing of the state exam, at present there is no trade school curriculum provided for the installation of automatic fire extinguishing systems. That could change with the passage of this Bill, helping to promote our trade education here in Connecticut.

Although the installation cost of a home sprinkler system would be project-specific, I would guess, on average, that it would cost no more to homeowners than installing central air conditioning in a home. And the benefits of sprinkler installation could be far more comforting, considering the life-saving properties of sprinklers. Additionally, it could be possible for many homeowners to realize a savings on their insurance premiums with sprinkler system installation.

I hope I've offered some valuable observations on this notable matter. And I again thank you for allowing me the time to address you on this important issue.


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