



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Office of the Fire Marshal
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Good Morning, My name is Donn Dobson; I am the Fire Marshal for the Town Of Old Saybrook, a member of the Board of Directors for the CT Fire Marshal's Association and President of the CT Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

I am here this morning to speak in favor of **House Bill 5326, AN ACT REQUIRING THE PRESENCE OF CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** The Fire Marshal Community does support the concept of having Carbon Monoxide Detectors in schools. Carbon Monoxide Detection has shown to be an invaluable tool in one and two family homes, since the bill passed several years ago. It would only make sense then to put them in place where our children are for eight hours a day through the winter months. This winter has been especially hard on school district heating systems in general, especially those that have not been maintained or serviced, possibly putting school children at risk. Installing and maintaining Carbon Monoxide detection in schools will only help to alert schools to the potential of deadly Carbon Monoxide. The question remains as to where to put these detectors? My suggestion would be to put them in areas outside of the boiler and furnace rooms and to have them monitored, in conjunction with the fire alarm system. The maintenance and serving should be left up to a licensed and certified alarm technician, also similar to the requirements in the fire alarm code.

The second Bill I would like to speak on is **House Bill 5802, AN ACT ADOPTING CERTAIN SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THOMAS COMMISSION.** The Fire Marshal Community is in favor of these recommendations and welcomes and technical training and assistance in these specialized facilities. The real need is at the code level that will also assist the fire marshal. The current propane code is 16 years old and the current gas plumbing code is 19 years old and the natural gas code is 17 years old. All of these codes have been changed and updated at least 5-6 times respectfully. It is time that the State of Connecticut embraces the changes similar to that of the electric code, which gets updated without a lot of fanfare and get up to date with the current codes.

The third Bill I would like to speak on is **HOUSE BILL 6296 AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE.** The Fire Marshal community is **NOT** in Favor of this bill. This process would circumvent the already successful process to which is already in place, to name the code in Statute, which creates problems down the road with any kind of technical changes or code editions. This would really handcuff the process. This would also tie the State of CT to one particular code publisher and allow for the Building and Fire code users to not have any input to the promulgation process.