



CONNECTICUT FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

March 9, 2012

Sen. Eileen Daily, Co-Chairman
Rep. Patricia Widlitz, Co-Chairman
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford Connecticut 06106

SB 25 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.

The Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association (CFDIA) which represents 240 certified fire service instructors and training officers in our state strongly supports Senate Bill 25 section 2 (b)(2) which will provide the funding to construct, improve, repair, renovate and acquire land for the regional fire schools.

Our members train firefighters at the Connecticut Fire Academy, 9 Regional Fire Schools and at local fire departments. The regional fire school facilities host critical fire service training on Firefighter I and 2, Live Fire Training, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue and a variety of other fire service skills and topics. During the past year, local fire departments were the first responders to deal with a variety of emergency situations and hazardous conditions due to the major weather events that hit our state. Fire departments responded to building collapses, power line emergencies, carbon monoxide incidents, flooding and fires. Now more than ever we need to provide training for our firefighters to deal with all types of emergencies.

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The regional fire schools are critical to hundreds of local fire departments that do not have the facilities to properly and safely provide training to their firefighters. The recent completion of the New Haven and soon to be completed Hartford County Regional Fire Schools are prime examples of facilities that will meet the needs of the fire service in the state today and well into the future. Everyday firefighters across the state provide excellent public safety services to the citizens of this state. They deserve high quality training at facilities equipped to provide the training.

The plan to improve all of our state regional fire schools began many years ago and it needs to continue. The proposed funding will assure that all of our regional fire schools will be capable of providing state of the art training at facilities that are safe for our firefighters.

On behalf of our association I would like to thank you for your consideration and anticipated support on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony Dignoti".

Anthony Dignoti
President
Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association