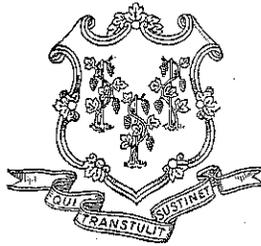


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State of Connecticut

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February 21, 2013

Senate Co-Chair Joan Hartley  
House Co-Chair Stephen Dargan  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

***Testimony in Support of: SB-708, AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE RETARDANT PAINTS.***

Good morning. I want to thank Co-Chairs Hartley and Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Giegler, as well as distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 708, An Act Concerning Fire Retardant Paints.

Since the 9/11 attacks, the state of New York has enacted comprehensive fire prevention legislation to cover commercial and residential construction. The state of Connecticut has no legislation. The losses of children's lives at Christmas and recently in Norwich underscore the need for legislation to mandate fireproof paint for commercial and residential new construction and for any modifications or additions to existing premises. Fireproof primer contains and snuffs out residential fires and provides an approximate 4 hours burn-through for structural steel and concrete. I urge this committee to consider this most important public safety measure to begin saving lives needlessly lost due to house fires that would be contained and or extinguished by the use of readily available and cost-effective paint products.

As a beginning point, and as a bare necessity, apartment complexes, homes for the elderly, and public buildings that have been "grandfathered" from the requirement to install sprinklers should be mandated to use fire retardant paints immediately.

I encourage you to consider this matter and help regulate the use of fire retardant paints on both the interior and exterior of buildings and other structures. It is time we took preventive action to curb the devastation of commercial and residential fires.

Respectfully,

Gary LeBeau  
State Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District