

RE: HB5541 Supplemental on Thompsonville Fire District

Good morning, I would like to thank the entire Planning & Development Committee for the opportunity to testify today. I first would like to tell you that I am a third generation property owner in Thompsonville. I also own more than one property there. One of my properties burnt down on April 27, 2012 it was a total loss. It had been my grandfathers, my aunts and then I purchased it. If anyone understands the need for fire protection I do. I respect the firemen that put their lives on line everyday to protect the people and their properties. With that said I also feel my fundamental right to vote was taken away because the management of the district did not want the people to vote. This is just wrong. LLC's lost their vote in 2009 when an amendment went into the special act that controls this district that said you had to be a "person" to vote. I own my properties in a LLC.

CT General Statutes Chapter 613 Limited Liability Companies Sec 34-101 Definition's of a person is

(23) "Person" means an individual, a general partnership, a limited partnership, a domestic or foreign limited liability company, a trust, an estate, an association, a corporation or any other legal or commercial entity.

We have five fire districts in Enfield and my LLC's can vote in any other district except Thompsonville! The other districts are not trying to push voters away they are trying to get them to come in and vote. I found out that I couldn't vote when I arrived at a meeting to vote on whether or not to build a new fire station. The management of the fire district told me NO only people can vote. I said I own property in the district; I pay taxes in the district. The person along side of me was another owner of a LLC who has a lumber business he was also turned away that day. I think we were both stunned. It didn't seem fair to us because my father owns a mall in this same district with 3 other partners and they all get to vote. Only because of the type of ownership they have? So partnerships can have 20 votes but an LLC can't have any? This seemed to discriminate in the type of ownership you have. I am here today to ask for one single vote for LLC's. Just the same vote I have in the other districts.

I feel that the management of the Thompsonville Fire District just wanted to use a very narrow field to exclude popular business entity types their right to vote so that they could have more control on the outcome. In 2009 LLC's were excluded to vote and then last year it went further to exclude all the people in the district the right to vote on the budget. This needs to stop now and you have the power to make it right for the people and all the LLC's in this district. We want our vote back!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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