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February 18, 2009

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Our 4,500 members serve in 55 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 5186; **AAC THE THOMPSONVILLE FIRE TAXING DISTRICT**. The Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association urges your committee's passage of this legislation.

It is our belief that people who own property and support a municipal entity through taxation should be entitled to have a voice in the governance of that municipal government, in this case the Thompsonville Fire Taxing District. Representation should not be restricted to residents when other individuals who own property hold an equal interest in the welfare of the district.

The State of Connecticut has 86 Fire Taxation Districts and while I cannot give you an accurate count, many of those districts provide for resident and property owner representation in the affairs of those districts. Granting such rights to property owners in Thompsonville would not be groundbreaking law in the state and we encourage your support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Rapanault', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul J Rapanault
Legislative/Political Affairs