



February 19, 2015

Connecticut Legislative Public Hearing
West Hartford Town Hall Legislative Chambers
West Hartford, Connecticut

RE: HB 6777 "An Act Requiring the Installation of Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems in New Residential Buildings".

To: Chairman Stephen Dargan, Chairman Tim Larson and members of the Public Safety Committee.

Let me introduce myself, my name is John Abbate Jr. I reside at 11 Overshot Dr. South Glastonbury, CT. I have lived in CT all my life and I have worked in the fire protection industry here in Connecticut for 35 years. My current position is President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) Connecticut Chapter. I also was the former owner of Professional Mechanical Contractors, LLC, a fire sprinkler installation company for 14 years. When building my new home in Glastonbury in 2002 I made a decision to install a fire sprinkler system in our new house even though there were no building code requirements at that time that required sprinklers in residential homes. I wanted my family safe from any threat of a potential fire that could occur in anyone's home at any time, day or night. It gave my family peace of mind that we had an automatic fire sprinkler system ready to go in case of an emergency to save our lives. What we had installed was a life safety system to protect us from a fire not simply detection like a smoke alarm.

As president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) Connecticut Chapter, we are a group that includes contractors, suppliers and other fire sprinkler professionals including engineers and Connecticut Fire Marshalls. As members of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) we recognize that our work has a direct, as well as indirect, impact on the quality of life for all humanity. The services provided by NFSA members require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the preservation of life and property and the further enhancement of the public safety, health and welfare.

It's a proven fact that "fire sprinklers save lives" especially when used in a residential application like HB6777 proposes. It's hard to put a "price tag" on a human life, but when a residential sprinkler system saves (1) human life during a fire, the cost of the residential sprinkler system installation is worth the nominal cost many times over. The life saved may be a father or mother, a son or daughter, or a firefighter attempting to extinguish a fire. Let's face the facts, smoke detectors are not enough, many adults and children sleep right through them, we need a better way to protect our loved ones and HB6777 will achieve this in newly constructed one & two story residential homes.

We think the time right to implement this new bill. Connecticut has always been in the forefront, a leader for the rest of the country in many aspects. Let's take that step and move forward and pass HB 6777 "An Act Requiring the Installation of Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems in New Residential Buildings".

Sincerely,

John Abbate Jr.

John Abbate Jr.
Construction Manager Fire Protection Testing Company, Inc
President / National Fire Sprinkler Association – Connecticut Chapter