



March 10, 2015

Public Safety & Security Committee
Room 3600
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B No. 6972 AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Dargan and Larson and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee;

My name is Walter Summers, and I am the Fire Marshal for the Town of South Windsor as well as the First Vice-President of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association (CFMA). I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the CFMA to support House Bill Number 6972 AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY. The proposed Bill would bring the number of local Fire Marshals represented on the Codes and Standards Committee from two to four. The proposed Bill would also require one of the three professional engineers to be a practicing fire protection engineer. The CFMA members have long supported this proposal and are pleased to see that your Committee has taken the time to look at this matter.

The current make up of the Codes and Standards Committee is heavily weighed to the construction side of code use, adoption and interpretation process. The building construction side has 14 members on the Committee based on 2 architects, 3 engineers, 3 builders, 2 building officials, 1 energy, 1 electrical, 1 plumbing, and 1 HVAC representatives. The fire protection and prevention side of the code use, adoption, and interpretation has a total of 2 local fire marshals. The proposed Bill would add 3 experts in fire protection and prevention to this side of the process. To make this change, the Bill would require one of the three existing engineering positions to be a fire protection engineer. Also, the Bill would lower the number of members of the public from four to two. The Bill would still maintain the building construction side super majority 13-5.

The CFMA strongly supports this Bill to add more voices to promote the position of the fire protection and prevention community and we ask for your support for House Bill 6872

Respectfully,

Walter Summers, First Vice President
Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association