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To Senator Timothy Larson, Representative Stephen Dargan, and Members of the Public Safety Committee

My name is Alan Lagocki, AIA and I am a licensed architect in the State of Connecticut. I am the Past President of AIA Connecticut, the professional association of architects in the State, a current member of its Board of Directors, and the long time co-chair of its Building Performance and Regulations Committee. I write today, however, as a private citizen.

I wish to express my strong opposition to House Bill 6972, *An Act Concerning Fire Safety*, an attempt to increase the membership of Fire Marshals on the State Codes and Standards Committee.

The current Codes and Standards committee is a well-balanced, representative committee that works hard to represent all interests in the state. Its recent increase in make- up reflects that wide representation and insures that no one group has inordinate influence on the decisions of the committee.

I believe that the proposed change will alter that balance negatively and skew future decisions in favor of one group. The great virtue of the current make-up of the committee is its ability to take the larger perspective in the best interests of all citizens in our State.

~~One is forced to ask why this initiative is being taken. Given the committee's historic record of success in~~ consensus building and the accommodation of all groups in arriving at fair and representative decisions, there is absolutely no reason to change the make- up of the group. There is no compelling reason to make the proposed changes. Further, if the fire marshals are successful in this attempt, surely other groups represented will feel that their voices have been diminished and will seek redress, impeding the ability for the committee to function cooperatively and efficiently.

I urge the members of the Public Safety Committee to reject this attempt and vote against HB 6972.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Lagocki, AIA

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