



A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects
370 James Street, Suite 402, New Haven, CT 06513
203-865-2195 FAX: 203-562-5378
aiainfo@aiact.org, www.aiact.org

March 11, 2015

RE: HB 6972, *An Act Concerning Fire Safety*

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects wishes to express our strong opposition to House Bill 6972, *An Act Concerning Fire Safety*.

AIA Connecticut is the professional association for licensed architects in Connecticut representing approximately 1,350 members. Our members practice in over 450 firms, many small, one or two person firms as well as numerous firms of significant size employing well over 100 Connecticut residents, having international reputations. Our firms work with consultants, and contractors, and subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers and building and business owners as well as the State of Connecticut. The Design and Construction Industry is proud to be a resource to our State representing a substantial economic sector.

This proposed bill is being put forward to alter the membership of the State Codes and Standards Committee. This Committee is currently comprised of 21 professional volunteer members who serve the State and our citizens well though countless hours of volunteered time to review and develop our Building and Fire Safety Codes. This committee MUST be a thoughtful, well balanced committee to insure the safety of our buildings. Rebalancing the Committee to skew the members toward any single special interest group is not in the best interest of Public Safety. We believe the title of this bill is misleading as the proposal in the bill has nothing to do with Fire Safety. Fire Safety Professionals are already equally represented on the Codes and Standards Committee and serve the State well with their thoughtful approach to Codes.

We urge the Public Safety Committee to not pursue this unnecessary and frankly, dangerous change in the balance of the Codes and Standards Committee. We urge you to vote against HB 6972.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on HB 6972.

Very truly yours,

Diane Harp Jones

Officers

Philip H. Cerrone, III, AIA
President
Timothy L. Brewer, AIA
Vice President

Diane Harp Jones, CEO/EVP

Arthur L. Sanders, AIA
Secretary
George Fellner, AIA
Treasurer

Directors

Daniel Casinelli, AIA
Stephanie Degen-Monroe, AIA
Glenn R. Gollenberg, AIA
Alan S. Lagocki, AIA
George McGoldrick, AIA

Martin A. Onorato, Esq., Associate AIA
Michael Pereira, Associate AIA
Kermit D. Thompson, AIA