



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
Public Safety and Security Committee
REGARDING RAISED HOUSE BILL 6972
March 12, 2015

I am Paul W. Brady, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC/CT), representing over 90 engineering firms and the Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers, representing over 250 licensed Professional Engineers in Connecticut.

On behalf of both organizations, I would like to testify in opposition to Raised House Bill 6927, AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE SAFETY.

This bill would change the membership of the State Codes and Standards Committee. The Code and Standards Committee's primary functions are to write the State Building Code and the State Fire Code. These codes are critical to the health and safety of the public. The 21 members of the Committee are designated to represent a wide variety of professional areas.

The bill would replace two of the four public members of the Codes and Standards Committee with local fire marshals. The public members of this Committee serve a very important function. Although they may not bring specific technical expertise, they represent the public and bring an important "reality check" to the decision-making process. Replacing them with two additional fire marshals would upset the balance of the Committee.

In addition, the bill would eliminate the requirement that a mechanical engineer be represented on the Committee. Mechanical engineering is an increasingly important part of these codes. As sustainable design considerations become a more important, the input of mechanical engineers also grows.

For these reasons, we ask that you not vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

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