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217

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill No. 239, *An Act Requiring Verification to Reduce False Alarms*

Public Hearing March 1, 2016

Submitted by: Douglas M. Curtiss, President Sonitrol New England.

Submitted to: Public Safety and Security Committee,
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Co-Chair Senator Larson, Co-Chair Representative Dargan and Legislative Committee Members,

Thank you for an opportunity to submit testimony in regards to proposed **Senate Bill No. 239, An Act Requiring Verification to Reduce False Alarms**. I am in SUPPORT of the bill as proposed.

Good morning/afternoon, my name is Doug Curtiss and I'm the president and owner of Sonitrol New England. We are a Connecticut based security service company with over 40 years of experience.

Police departments across North America are continually challenged by the need to respond to all burglar alarms, particularly when a staggering 94% to 99% of alarms prove to be false. Despite extensive efforts to combat the problem — including call verification, permits, and fines — the cost for responding to false alarms continues to mount while the false alarm rate remains essentially unchanged.

Since the spring of 2015, Sonitrol New England, Hartford Police Department, Emergency Services and Telecommunications Department, and the Hartford Board of Education have been conducting a False Alarm Reduction Pilot Program into the false alarm rate at the Hartford schools. The false alarm statistics are staggering:

In March 2015, there was a total of **464** alarms city wide. **458** were false alarms that required a police response.

- That's a 98.7% false alarm rate
- Each false alarm has a two-officer response because it's a burglar alarm
- On average each officer spends 32 minutes per false alarm