

David P Bunnell
248 Breakneck Hill Road
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February 19, 2021

Joint Committee on Transportation
300 Capital Ave.
Hartford. CT. 06106

Ref. HB-5428, An Act Concerning the Sale and Repair of Emergency Apparatus

Honorable members,

I am David Bunnell, and I have been a firefighter and fire officer for 41 years. I was a member and an officer of the Northfield Fire Co., a member, officer, and Chief of the Torrington Fire Department, and am now a member of the Middlebury Fire Department. I have served on numerous apparatus purchasing committees throughout my fire service career.

I am writing to support the passage of the above-referenced bill, HB-5428. There are many entities selling emergency apparatus with absolutely no presence in the state at all, and no licensing of any kind. As a result, the customer, usually a municipality or a 501-C3, has little recourse other than court action when an emergency vehicle has unresolved mechanical, electrical, or other issues. The complexity of these vehicles is far greater than a passenger car or SUV, and yet any car dealership in this state must be licensed with the Department of Motor Vehicles. In the interest of responder safety and fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers, the same licensing standard should be applied to emergency apparatus.

Sincerely,

David P Bunnell