



NORTH CAROLINA FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION
"Dedicated to the Saving of Life and Property Through Fire Prevention"

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10 April 2019

Greetings to you all,

In service as President and on behalf of the North Carolina Fire Marshal's Association, I am writing this letter to formally voice opposition to some recently filed legislation, Senate Bill 566 (SB566) and House Bill 615 (HB615), short titled, the NC Consumer Fireworks Safety Act. It is the wish of the more than 800 members of this association that this legislation as proposed not be permitted to reach approval/become law in North Carolina.

It is of great concern to our association that passing such legislation will result in an increase in fireworks related accidents/injuries and property damage/loss across North Carolina. Our perspective is based on data from states that have approved similar legislation.

Since 2011, eleven states- Kentucky, Utah, New Hampshire, Michigan, New York, Georgia, West Virginia, Iowa, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware- have passed similar legislation on consumer fireworks. Statistics provided by the Consumer Products Safety Commission show that since 2011, fireworks related deaths have doubled, fireworks related injuries have increased by 15%, and the number of injuries to children under 15 years of age has increased by 26%.

While the proposed legislation includes tax revenue language based on the sales of these "consumer fireworks", those proposed monies simply do not equate to the real cost to those who've lost someone or been injured in a fireworks related accident.

Please join the North Carolina Fire Marshal's Association in opposition to SB 566 and HB 615. Reach out to your local legislators and voice your concerns.

In service,

Eric T. Wiseman

President, North Carolina Fire Marshal's Association