



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

CHIEF ROBERT A. DiPOLI
PRESIDENT – 2004 - 2005

139 HIGH STREET
MEDFIELD, MA 02052
TEL: 508-668-5447
E-MAIL: DIPOLI@GIS.NET

July 10, 2007

Dear Senator Michael W. Morrissey, Representative Michael J. Rodriques, members of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee;

My name is Chief Bob DiPoli. I am offering testimony today on Senate 178, a bill seeking to allow Interior Designers to stamp building plans.

The Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts was made aware of this legislation several months ago. The Board of Directors researched this proposal and deliberated its merit at two separate meetings. We sought input from our State Fire Marshal, our counterparts in the Building Officials group as well as input from the Architects, Fire Protection Engineers and weighed that input with the proposal of the Interior Designers Group.

The overwhelming consensus of the President, Executive Board and Board of Directors was reflected in two votes not to support this proposal at this time at the May and June Board Meetings.

The Chiefs are concerned with the lack of depth of training and knowledge of the Designers in Fixed Fire Protection Systems, Structural Integrity of Building Construction as well as the possibility of changes effecting means of egress after a building is built and inspected.

President Kenneth Willette is amenable to meeting with the Designers Group in the future for meaningful discussion of this issue, but asks me to record the Fire Chiefs Association on record as being opposed to this legislation.