



# CT FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

36 Cedar Drive, Southington, CT 06489

[www.connecticutfirechiefs.com](http://www.connecticutfirechiefs.com)

---

## **Testimony Submitted March 4, 2021 to the Energy and Technology Committee regarding support for Raised S.B. No. 937 - AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING AND VIDEO SERVICE WIRE REMOVAL.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to your Committee, albeit virtual, on behalf of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association.

The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) was founded in 1902 and represents fire chiefs from throughout the State of Connecticut. The mission of our organization is to promote the position of Chief Fire Officers in Connecticut as the leaders of the fire service through continuing education, unity in the fire service, safety, and professionalism as a fire officer. The association focuses on this mission by promoting training, networking and providing advice to leaders and the public on topics of fire safety.

The CFCA is in support of the following points within Senate Bill No. 937:

- **Make-Safe Crews** – Having trained crews available to respond quickly to incidents involving downed or damaged power lines is extremely important to allow fire and police assets to clear once the situation is made safe. In rural areas, there are very limited assets to stand-by these incidents. In suburban and metropolitan areas, the large number of incidents requiring responders, make it difficult to maintain enough responders to stand-by at several “wires down” incidents during a storm aftermath.
- **Liaisons** - Maintaining a system of single point of contact from the utility for the towns in the event of storms or other large-scale events, allows for an efficient (two-way) flow of information when information is needed most. Leaving towns and the staff of their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with a known contact makes everyone’s jobs easier in the difficult hours and days after a large-scale event. Communications between the EOC’s and associated facilities (such as dispatch centers) and the utility should be reinforced to make sure ALL reported incidents/locations are documented and addressed. When a incident is reported, there should be a feedback component in place so the EOC (and/or dispatch center) are notified that the utility is responding to the incident/location.

With each storm that strikes our state we see just how important maintaining our utility system is. With society’s reliance on our utilities, restoring the system capabilities rapidly and safely are utmost on everyone’s mind after each storm.

We would like to thank Committee Co-Chairs Arconti and Neddleman for bringing this matter forward. We would also like to thank the members of the Energy and Technology Committee for considering this important piece of legislation to make the responders, utility workers, and citizens of Connecticut safer in the event of a storm or large-scale event impacting our utility grid.

---

The Fire Chiefs Association of Connecticut stands ready to assist your committee in any way with this important topic.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RFD", followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

**Chief Robert F Duval**  
**Atwood Hose Fire Company**  
**Wauregan, CT**  
**President of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association**

