



Connecticut Fire Marshal Association

www.ctfma.org

Legislative Representatives: Walter Summers walter.summers@southwindsor.org

Roger Nelson rnelson@bloomfieldctfd.com

Testimony in support of S.B. 937 - An Act Concerning Emergency Response Planning and Video Service Wire Removal delivered before the Energy and Technology Committee, 03/4/2021.

Co-Chairman State Representative David Arconti

Co-Chairman State Senator Norman Needleman

The Connecticut Fire Marshals Association (CFMA) supports S.B. 937 - *An Act Concerning Emergency Response Planning and Video Service Wire Removal*. This proposed Bill would make important technical changes to create standardized utility response to local emergencies and planned storms. The language currently reflected in the proposal is a result of a cooperative effort over the last year of CT Fire Marshals, CT Career Fire Chiefs, CT Fire Chiefs Association, the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of CT as well as this Committee, to assist local towns with emergency responses.

As many of you are aware, there is often times of confusion in local emergency operation centers on the reporting of downed power lines, blocked roads, and emergent life safety responses when no information on crew locations are provided by the utilities. Throughout the testimony submitted here today you will certainly hear from many of our partners of storm experiences and the lack of clear communication on the location and response time of electrical crews. The problems with storm response has continued to exist even after 82 recommendations from the “Two Storm Report” delivered to Governor Malloy in 2012.

Each local municipality should have one make safe crew dedicated and assigned to that Emergency Operation Center to guarantee a quick and safe removal of power lines. This “make safe crew” should consist of one utility line bucket truck and one tree service bucket truck. These crews can work with the local Departments of Public Works to efficiently open blocked roads or assist in life safety measures.

The CT Fire Marshals Association and our partners are willing to continue to work with the Committee and it’s leadership, to strengthen an amend the language in this Bill to help our local municipalities. We would like to thank the Chairs for their support on this critical issue for local municipalities throughout the state.