

PHANTOM FIREWORKS

Distributors of Phantom® and Wolf Pack® Brand Fireworks

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September 24, 2019

House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee
Room 140, Capitol Building
House Bill 1687

Chairmen Causer and Pashinski and members of the committee, my name is Danial Peart, Director of Government Affairs for Phantom Fireworks, the country's leading retailer of consumer fireworks. Phantom has operated in the Commonwealth for nearly 30 years and has 11 permanent retail locations with more than 400 full and part-time employees. Phantom Fireworks is a member in good standing of the Pennsylvania Pyrotechnics Association, along with dozens of other state and national fireworks trade, and related, member associations. Thank you for the opportunity today to speak in support of HB 1687.

Since the use of consumer fireworks was legalized in 2017, Pennsylvanians have done just that. They have celebrated our great nation's independence, en masse, and at times, at the unfortunate expense of those surrounding them. This is not uncommon to the experiences of other states after fireworks legalization occurs. There is a "honeymoon period," if you will, where people are eager to exercise their newfound freedom during the greatest holiday of the year. Unfortunately, this honeymoon period can also give way to a more frequent, or excessive, use of fireworks not in line with the original intent.

History tells us that the novelty of legal use will dissipate after a couple of years, and a more orderly, respectful, reality of fireworks use will settle in. That being said, we understand the reasoning behind creating a statutory framework to encourage citizens to use fireworks in a responsible, legal, manner, as well as giving the municipal and enforcement communities something they can point to to compel such behavior. Phantom believes that HB 1687 achieves this, in creating a reasonable set of parameters around the use of consumer fireworks and affirming local control, that is consistent with what other states have successfully done with their consumer fireworks laws.

In closing, Phantom would like to thank Representative Farry and the sponsors for their hard work in drafting a comprehensive bill that addresses the issues requiring attention, and the House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee for their efforts and willingness to provide this venue to discuss the bill. I urge you to vote “yes” on HB 1687 and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Danial P. Peart