Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute
223 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
September 24, 2019

Testimony from Jerome Ozog, Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Servicers Institute in an advocacy and educational organization that represents volunteer and career fire and emergency services agencies across the Commonwealth.

Our mission is to sustain and improve those services that are critical to the Public Safety of Pennsylvania. We advocate for those who provide critical public safety services to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Everyday dedicated volunteer and career personnel respond to transportation crashes on our Interstate Highways and Turnpike, chemical spills in suburban manufacturing facilities, fires in large inner-city target hazards. These incidents occur along with day to day calls for service that include variety of fires, technical rescues, and medical emergencies.

Today's fire department is called an all-hazard organization. We respond to anything and everything from flooded basements to broken fingers, to active shooter situations and beeping smoke detectors.

The National Fire Academy and the National Fire Protection Association promote the concept of Community Risk Reduction or CRR. CRR is defined as "programs, actions, and services used by a community, which prevent or mitigate the loss of life, property, and resources associated with life safety, fire, and other disasters within a community

The impact of increased utilization of in fireworks in Pennsylvania directly contradicts the concepts professed in CRR.

As you know the SR 6 Commission extensively studied and reported on what is happening across the Commonwealth to our fire and EMS organizations. Our organizations are struggling both financially and

operationally due to decreased firefighting members able to respond to calls.

The increase use of fireworks causes an increase in demand of an already stressed system.

We look forward to collaborating with you to address this issue.

Thank you very much!