

Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota

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1/30/2023

Senate Appropriations Committee

Re: Support of SB 2211

Mr. Chairman and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Darren Schimke, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of North Dakota representing nearly 400 professional firefighters across our great state. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2211.

In light of the proposed amendments and new language contained within SB 2211, it appears to us that this bill clearly defines what is already taking place, the State Fire Marshal Division working with the Insurance Department. Additionally, we also recognize the importance, and the already existing relationship, that the State Fire Marshal Division has with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

The State Fire Marshal Division has working relationships with many other agencies. One that is very important to us is with the North Dakota Firefighters Association (NDFA). The training that is provided through this relationship to fire departments across our state, allow firefighters to do their job as safe as possible. To perform their job safely not only requires proper training, but also requires up to date personal protective equipment and firefighting equipment. That is why the funding contained within SB 2211, that goes back to the individual departments, is key to their success in accomplishing their fire ground objectives safely and protecting the citizens of North Dakota. In today's world, any increase that assists the funding for training and equipment is drastically necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to demonstrate our support with SB 2211.

Darren Schimke