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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES:

LIQUOR CONTROL, CHAIRMAN
URBAN AFFAIRS, MEMBER

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative John Taylor

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation- Uniform Licensing of Fire Sprinkler Contractors

DATE: March 5, 2013

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation which would create a freestanding act known as the Fire Sprinkler Contractors Licensing Act. Anecdotal evidence in my district and throughout the Commonwealth has suggested that unqualified companies and individuals have been installing water-based fire protection sprinkler systems which do not meet the standards of the National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA") or Fire Codes.

Due to the highly technical nature of fire sprinkler system installation, as well as the inherent interest and responsibility of the legislature to protect the citizenry of the Commonwealth, it is my opinion that that legislation is necessary to uniformly license qualified fire sprinkler contractors and provide for the sound preparation of system designs.

Furthermore, this legislation will assist local building and fire code officials in keeping up with the accelerating complexity of fire protection, as well as protect property owners who have been repeatedly victimized by either unscrupulous or unqualified companies and individuals. Indeed, many States and Commonwealths throughout the country have implemented similar laws in years past.

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner has indicated that it would support a legislative initiative to uniformly license fire sprinkler contractors. Please join me in sponsoring this long-overdue and necessitous piece of legislation.