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Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal

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Testimony Regarding SB 378

Senate Committee on Commerce

Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal

February 1, 2021

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit neutral and informational testimony on SB 378. Our agency is neutral on the bill because we feel it will add very little duties and responsibilities to our current workload. In consulting with other states that have extended holiday and/or yearlong sales, we found that the number of facilities that might offer year-round sales would not be large enough to increase the workload of our Investigation Division which now oversees the state fireworks industry. Due to the cost/sales/profit ratio of year long sales, our office does not see but more than a handful of proprietors, if any, opening up a yearlong sales facility in the first year.

Leaving the decision to the local municipalities and counties to determine if they want to allow the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks is appropriate for each one of those jurisdictions needs, concerns, and constituents. There is currently no restriction at the state level on the discharging of consumer fireworks anytime during the year and it is left up to the local municipalities and counties to control and enforce.