

Testimony before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
SB 459
Repealing Current Licensing and Permit Fees for the
Fireworks and Fire Extinguisher Industries

Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal

SB 459 would repeal the ability of the State Fire Marshal's Office to charge for licensing, permitting, and inspections of the Fireworks and Fire Extinguisher Industries in Kansas. Currently these two industries along with the Propane industry are the only three groups, except for the boiler inspection program, that the Fire Marshal's Office charges fees to for those services. The fees charged to the Propane industry, which are in rules and regulations, are also in the process of being discontinued.

Our office does not feel it fair or appropriate that these groups be charged for tasks that our office does for many other business and groups in the state at no cost. The Fire Marshal's Office is completely fee funded with a majority of those funds coming from a small percentage of all the insurance premiums sold in Kansas. These industries all purchase insurance policies in the state and by doing so already fund the operations of our office.

If SB 459 is passed it will annually return approximately \$25,000.00 to the Fire Extinguisher industry and \$35,000.00 to the Fireworks industry. The change in the Propane industry regulations will amount to approximately \$140,000.00 annually staying with the Propane companies that operate in the state.

Our office has reviewed our FY17 budget numbers and projected expenses and we believe we can absorb the \$200,000.00 in our existing budget and we are not asking for any additional spending authority for FY17.