

PHANTOM FIREWORKS

Distributors of Phantom® and Wolf Pack® Brand Fireworks

2445 Belmont Ave
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
Danial Peart, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs

o. 330.746.1064
dpeart@fireworks.com
www.fireworks.com

May 30, 2017

House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43216
House Bill 226

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, and members of the committee, I am Danial Peart, Director of Government Affairs for Phantom Fireworks, the country's leading retailer of consumer fireworks. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in support of House Bill 226.

Ohio's consumer fireworks laws have gone substantively unchanged for more than two decades and do not reflect the current realities of consumer fireworks use. The consumer fireworks industry recognized the importance of bringing a safer, quality, product to market in 1991 when it created the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory and began testing the fireworks at the factory level to their own stringent conformity requirements. Fireworks-producing factories were immediately faced with accountability for the products they produced, and CPSC fireworks-related injuries statistics have shown that while fireworks consumption has more than doubled, fireworks-related injuries per 100,000 pounds used has decreased by more than 60%. No other industry boasts a safety record that can simultaneously proclaim increased usage and decreased injuries. Consumer fireworks are safer now than ever before.

Equally as important to fireworks safety is ensuring an educated and informed consumer. Consumer fireworks retailers are spending more time and resources to educate consumers on how fireworks work, and how to use fireworks properly and safely. Our company, Phantom Fireworks, floods our customers with safety messaging from the moment they walk through our doors until the moment they leave. We host annual, free to the public fireworks safety classes and in many states we team up with local fire and safety officials to conduct these classes. That type of joint messaging has proven to be exceptionally effective and is only possible through legal fireworks use. History has shown that with a focused educational message, legalizing consumer fireworks use can serve to decrease injuries to the consumer. Fireworks safety is our life-blood and we take every available opportunity to impress as much upon our customers.

Finally, the proposed fireworks study group is a rational approach to ensure that we don't find ourselves in a similar situation of dealing with antiquated fireworks laws.

A study group made up of those in the fireworks business, and those who regulate the fireworks business seems logical and effective as a means to generate discussion between these stakeholders. The ongoing dialogue between industry and enforcement has proven to be effective in multiple states, and leads to a transparency that benefits both parties. This element of House Bill 226, we believe, is the lynchpin of the continued success of Ohio's fireworks industry.

Phantom Fireworks enthusiastically supports House Bill 226 and we respectfully urge the committee to do the same. Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Danial Peart, Director of Government Affairs