



Chairwoman Manning, Vice-Chairman Dean and members of the committee, I am Ken Sprague, President of Hamburg Fireworks Display Inc. in Lancaster, OH, and President of the Ohio State Pyrotechnics Association. Thank you for today's opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 253.

On behalf of my company, as well as the Ohio State Pyrotechnics Association, I would like to express our support and appreciation for Representative Manning's effort to address some of the issues with Ohio's decades old fireworks law.

Ohio has permitted the sale of consumer fireworks for almost 50 years, has more than 50 licensed locations that are able to sell consumer fireworks, but, does not permit the use of **any** consumer fireworks in the state. This is a dated approach to the consumer fireworks business that should be addressed. Every state bordering Ohio already permits the sale and use of the full line of consumer fireworks.

Establishing a study group comprised of stakeholders in Ohio's fireworks industry to meet periodically to discuss the relevant issues of the fireworks business is a common sense approach to enhance the relationship between the fireworks industry and enforcement community. Having the ability to discuss such matters as legal consumer fireworks use, how additional storage licenses for 1.3G display fireworks may actually improve safety conditions in Ohio, the fireworks license moratorium, building code requirements, and any and all things relating to Ohio's fireworks industry can only be productive for everyone who is, and has, invested in this industry.

We believe the proposed study group represents a fair and balanced makeup of those who are directly involved with, and invested in, Ohio's fireworks industry. With the exception of the health organizations, everyone proposed is either a member of the fireworks industry, or a regulator of the fireworks industry, and has direct involvement and first-hand knowledge of all matters related to the industry. That is a recipe for productive discourse and mutual exchange of ideas that can only serve to benefit the citizens of the State of Ohio.

Again, I thank you for your time today and I urge you to vote "yes" for House Bill 253.

Ken Sprague,
President
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