



WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 34

DOUG SCHMITT: NORTHEAST TRUSTEE, KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

SENATE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 30, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am the Northeast Trustee for the Kansas State Firefighters Association. I, and my association, support SB 34. Our Association was founded in 1887 and represents approximately 16,000 fighters, both paid and volunteer, from border to border in the State of Kansas.

The primary responsibility of the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) is to mitigate the effects of a release or spill of hazardous materials and is driven by the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The CEPR's role has expanded over the years to become the vehicle for all-hazards planning in the State.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has two divisions with very separate focusses. To properly facilitate planning in an all-hazards planning environment, there needs to be a member on the CEPR from each division of KDHE.

Respectfully,

Doug Schmitt
Northeast Trustee, Kansas State Firefighters Association