

Congressman Weldon Testifies On Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act

On Thursday, September 23, 2004, Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), author of HR 1824, The Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2003, testified before the Committee On Ways and Means, Subcommittee On Select Revenue Measures, Chaired by congressman Jim McCrery (R-LA) regarding the merits of the bill that he and Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) introduced in April of 2003 shortly after a night club fire in Rhode Island left over 100 patrons dead. Mr. Weldon provided an overview of the legislation and its intent to accelerate cost recovery by reducing the depreciation schedule of fire sprinklers and in doing so praised the exemplary historical record of fire sprinklers while stressing the need to retrofit fire sprinklers in various critical occupancies such as nursing homes, nightclubs, high-rise buildings and student housing. In addition to his oral testimony, Mr. Weldon's office will be submitting written testimony to the subcommittee.

Of the nine-subcommittee members who were in attendance, five are presently cosponsors of HR 1824. They include, Ranking Member Congressman Michael McNulty (D-NY), Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-OH), Congressman Max Sandlin (D-TX), Congressman Mark Foley (R-FL) and Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI). During the question period after Mr. Weldon's presentation Congressman McNulty, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee and Congresswoman Tubbs-Jones reiterated their support of the bill and Congressman Paul Ryan told Mr. Weldon that he thought they were finally reaching some consensus regarding the issue.