

PHANTOM FIREWORKS

Distributors of Phantom® and Wolf Pack® Brand Fireworks

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House Committee on Public Safety and Policy
State Capitol Building #120
HB 3547-Rep. Swedzinski

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny and members of the committee. My name is Dan Peart, Director of Government Affairs for Phantom Fireworks, one of the nation's largest retailers of consumer fireworks. Phantom Fireworks has operated for nearly 50 years and has thousands of combined locations across the country. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify on House Bill 3547.

Phantom Fireworks unequivocally supports the concept of broadening the array of consumer fireworks allowed to be used and sold in Minnesota, as every state bordering Minnesota has already done. Our only qualification is that consumer safety must be paramount with any new language being considered. The sale of these “aerial and audible devices” should take place only in a permanent, brick and mortar building, equipped with an integrated fire alarm and fire suppression system. A building, as opposed to a temporary structure such as a tent or stand, offers immediate containment through its hard walls and ceiling, and allows for enhanced safety features like video cameras and photo ID verification to ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws and a captured sales history.

Consideration should be given to only allowing consumer fireworks that comply with the standards used by the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL) for any fireworks sold in the state. Additionally, consumer firework retail sales facilities should be constructed and operated in full compliance with NFPA 1124, the only comprehensive code addressing the retail sale and storage of consumer fireworks.

We have had positive discussions with Representative Swedzinski about this approach, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with him and other interested parties to legalize all consumer fireworks in Minnesota ahead of our country's 250th anniversary this year.

I thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Danial P. Peart