

Testimony Regarding SB 214
Before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal
March 6, 2013

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear here today and present testimony in support of SB 214. The Fire Marshal's Office has been in agreement with the industry on the concept of SB 214 and is in support of the main idea of allowing distributors and wholesalers in the state to sell bottle rockets to each other and to out of state entities as long as the final destination of those bottle rockets is for out of state use. Our office feels that this change promotes the growth of the fireworks industry in the state and allows the different state manufacturers, distributors, and wholesalers the opportunity to increase their business sales.

The concern our office has with the final version of the bill is that we believe that any business or person who is involved in the manufacture, distribution, or sale of fireworks in the state should be registered with our office. That includes out of state businesses and individuals that sell or purchase fireworks in Kansas.

I would ask the committee to amend the following portions of the bill:

Section 1 (c) Remove the word person in lines 14 and 17 and add "distributor" in each place.

Remove in lines 17 through 21 the reference to non-registered entity being able to purchase fireworks in Kansas.

Section 1 Line 23, change the class C designation to class 1.4G which is the current federal classification.

Section 2 Line 34, add "distributor" with manufacturer and wholesaler.

Line 36, page 1, through line 2 on page 2, remove the reference to the non-registered entity being able to purchase fireworks in Kansas.

Line 3, page 2, remove the reference to a four year registration period and leave it at the current 1 year requirement.

Line 5 through 9 and not allow the purchase or sale of fireworks by anyone in or out of state that is not registered in the state of Kansas.

To help the out of state vendors that want to purchase bottle rockets in Kansas, our office is willing to change the current rule and regulation that limits applications for bottle rocket

registration from January 1st through May 31st of each year, and allow application for registration at any time in the year. Those registrations would be for a 12 month duration and renewable annually.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal does support the original idea in this bill of furthering the growth of business in the state, but does not believe having un-registered entities either selling or purchasing fireworks in the state is in the best interest of the safety of the state's citizens or the regulation of a dangerous commodity in the boundaries of the state.