

To whom it may concern,

I was introduced to this bill tonight at a Forest Fire Warden meeting that was held in Rutland this evening.

As you read this email about the bill you are about to discuss at 930 on 03/31/2016, I am interested in the section 2644, giving the fire chief the ultimate person in charge for fire suppression of any forest fires. You are making a great mistake by putting in charge a fire chief to take over a forest fire. Since 1904 this state has had forest fire wardens up until now there was no problems with them doing there job. The men and women who have been appointed by there towns to be forest fire wardens have taken on classes and trained in many ways of suppression forest fires. Some of these men and women are national and state forest firefighters. They have the knowlegde to do this job.

Fire Chief's in Vermont don't have the training or resourses as some of theses wardens do. With my experence with some of these fire chief's they don't know what they are doing with a forest fire. You give them a motor vehicle crash, a two story wood-frame dwelling, a CO alarm, or something small and yes they can do that. A forest fire they don't have a clue on expand and control, where to get state and federal aid when it comes to this. They have no clue how to fill out the paperwork the state wants.

This evening while sitting at this class, I could count on one hand how many fire chief's were there as guest of the forest fire warden. I know for a fact there were a few asked but they couldn't be bothered to come.

It seems that there are some power hungry fire chief's and assistance fire chief that want this to change so they can be in charge. Well they these people are all about making a name for themselves and are not thinking about the good of the cause.

Please before making any desicion please contact your forest fire wardens too see there thoughts and also Lars Lund of the state forest dept who tried to update these rules and regulations and see the true meaning behind them. You will be very surprised that they aren't happy with this bill. You will found yourself short on wardens and then you will have a bigger problem with people burning at there own will.

Respectfully

Craig R. Bowman

*Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Tablet*