



CITIZENS FOR A SAFER FLORIDA, INC.

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RE: FIREWORKS LEGISLATION

Legislators:

It is my pleasure to introduce Citizens for a Safer Florida, Inc. (CFASF) to this legislative session. Our state-wide coalition has been in the making for 5 years, and consists of very passionate individuals and organizations in both in urban and rural settings. Their years of work have focused on the illegal use of fireworks in this state. The regulation and enforcement of fireworks are currently nonexistent. There are huge safety issues associated with this illegal use – serious injuries to children, to animals and livestock, to our veterans, and damage to property to name a few. As concerned Florida residents, CFASF wishes to see a ban/enforcement/regulation of all fireworks in this state.

To this end, members of this corporation have attended the Florida Consumer Fireworks Task Force meetings voicing their concerns. Tales of shell-shocked war veterans home from Iraq to dying horses from backyard and neighborhood fireworks displays were heard by this Task Force. Although their recommendation appears to be a good start in controlling this safety issue, there are still major concerns.

We support training and permitting of all currently defined fireworks in Florida Statutes. The new definition of "Consumer Fireworks" is unacceptable as it legalizes firecrackers among other dangerous aerial explosive/noise making devices. We support the age requirement, the permitting for possession as well as using fireworks. This makes enforcement easier for local law enforcers. And, we support setbacks in both urban and rural areas for using fireworks.

There are many other comments we have on the Task Force recommendation, and would like to be a stakeholder at any meeting or discussion of a potential bill. We look forward to working with you in this session to make Florida a safer place to live.