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# Rep. Laura Cox testimony on HB 5121

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the members of the committee.

I come before you today to ask for your support of legislation that I introduced in an effort to make a safer environment for firefighters, who risk their lives every day to ensure that our families remain safe.

You may recall that I came before this committee in November to testify for a similar bill of mine, HB 4740. During that time, there were concerns from committee members and interested parties that could not be addressed in that piece of legislation, which was the reason for the introduction of HB 5121.

As written, this legislation would require that structures with a light-frame truss roof system, floor system, or both, be identified by posted signage. The materials used in these light-frame systems have been proven to burn at a quicker rate than their heavier counterparts, which creates a more dangerous environment for the firefighters that have to enter these structures to fight fires.

One of the important issues that we addressed with this new legislation is enforcement. This language would be included in the state construction code act as opposed to the state fire code act, where my previous legislation had been focused. Enforcement would lie with the local governments, and if decided, may be delegated to the state. Currently, 97% of the state's local governments enforce their own construction code while the other 3% rely on the state for inspection and enforcement.

This proposal also leaves local and state inspectors harmless when it comes to added costs. The only cost that would be incurred would be for the actual signage itself,

which is miniscule. The responsibility of purchasing and placing the sign would lie with the building owner.

I've brought with me today an example of a placard that can be used. As you can see it is very small, lightweight, and inexpensive.

We have a duty to help ensure that these brave men and women make it home to family and friends at the end of the day after risking their lives for ours. This is a simple, common-sense solution that will provide firefighters with pertinent information that will better protect them from the dangers they face in every fire they fight.

Thank you for your time.