Statement of the International Association of Arson Investigators
In Support of the Fire Investigators Recognition Act

The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) strongly supports the Fire Investigators Recognition Act introduced by Representative Sean Casten and Representative Russell Fry. This legislation would close this unintended gap by explicitly including fire investigators in the Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) Program.

Fire investigators are not always engaged in active fire suppression, yet they routinely enter the same hazardous post-fire and post-explosion environments as firefighters. They face structural instability, toxic materials, and known carcinogens for extended periods while carefully documenting and examining the scene in order to determine how the fire started. These exposures are inherent to the work and carry the same long-term health risks.

Fire investigators also stand at the front lines of fire prevention. By determining whether a fire was caused by a faulty product or practice, or by an individual acting as an arsonist, they protect the public. Their findings lead to product recalls that remove dangerous items from the marketplace and to the identification and prosecution of those who deliberately set fires. In both ways, they reduce the likelihood of future tragedies.

Public service fire investigators perform essential public safety work. They deserve the same line-of-duty injury, death, and survivor benefits already afforded to law enforcement officers and firefighters. The Fire Investigators Recognition Act provides that recognition and support.

The IAAI thanks Congressman Casten and Congressman Fry an all those who helped advance this important effort on behalf of the fire investigation profession.
The IAAI urges Congress to enact this legislation and stands ready to assist in its advancement.

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