

October 4, 2011

Mr. Jim Narva
National Association of State Fire Marshals
1319 F Street, N.W., Suite 301
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Narva:

Thank you for your time on September 15, 2011, when we spoke about the nature of the relationship between your firm, Narva and Associates and the National Association of State Fire Marshalls (NASFM).

As you know, fire marshals have one of the most important jobs in the nation — protecting lives and property. They are rightly held in high esteem by the public and are given the utmost credibility because of the public safety duties they perform and the highest standards of integrity to which they hold themselves. We can only assume that as the executive director of their association, you maintain these standards.

As I mentioned on the phone, the Checks and Balances Project is a new watchdog group focused on accountability in government agencies, industry associations, and corporate management. As such, we are following up on a tip that clients of yours hired you because you are the Executive Director of the NASFM. We want to ask some follow-up questions to ensure that no potential conflicts of interests stem from your dual role as the head of a for-profit consulting firm and the Executive Director of the NASFM.

When we talked on the phone, you refused to provide your client list to verify that Narva and Associates does not have any conflicts of interest. While it was helpful to get your assurance that you proactively raise any conflicts of interest with NASFM's Board of Directors, we want to ask you the following questions to ensure that your private sector consulting does not take advantage of the fire marshals' trust in you. Specifically:

- Can you provide the NASFM meeting minutes over the last five years that detail your discussion with the Board of Directors on any potential conflicts?
- Can you provide the minutes where you gave your full client list to the NASFM Board so its members could independently verify that your clients do not have fire hazard problems or desire to use you as a way to lobby fire marshals?
- Does Narva and Associates get paid by companies and/or industries known to have serious fire problems?
- If the Board of Directors does not receive a full client list, how do you ensure that Narva and Associates does not represent clients with fire problems?

- If Narva & Associates clients have serious fire problems, can you describe your type of work for these clients? Specifically, does Narva and Associates attempt to provide opportunities for your clients to lobby NASFM members?
- Do you ever lobby NASFM members on your clients' behalf?
- As the wording and spirit behind NASFM bylaw Article XII states, NASFM staff members are prevented from inuring monetary benefits. Can you provide a copy of any waiver from NASFM that exempts you from profiting while representing and arranging for Narva & Associate clients to meet with NASFM members?

We hope that you can answer these questions in detail and provide a level of transparency that puts this issue to rest.

You can send your responses via mail at the address listed below or by email to gabe@checksandbalancesproject.org. I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

Gabe Elsner
Deputy Director
Checks and Balances Project

Cc:

Edward Paulk, Alabama State Fire Marshal;
David Tyler, Alaska State Fire Marshal;
Gene Palma, Director, Arizona Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety;
Lindsey Williams, Arkansas State Fire Marshal;
Tonya Hoover, California Acting State Fire Marshal;
Kevin Klein, Director, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety;
Christopher Guari, Connecticut Acting State Fire Marshal;
Grover Ingle, Delaware State Fire Marshal;
Jeff Atwater, Florida State Fire Marshal;
Ralph Hudgens, Georgia Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner;
Kenneth Silva, Chair, Hawaii State Fire Council;
Mark Larson, Idaho State Fire Marshal;
Larry Matkaitis, Illinois State Fire Marshal;
Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal;
Ray Reynolds, Director, Iowa State Fire Marshal Division;
Douglas Jorgensen, Kansas Acting State Fire Marshal;
William Swope, Jr., Kentucky State Fire Marshal;
H. "Butch" Browning, Louisiana State Fire Marshal;
John Dean, Maine State Fire Marshal;
William E. Barnard, Maryland State Fire Marshal;
Stephen Coan, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal;
Ronald Farr, Michigan State Fire Marshal;
Jerry Rosendahl, Minnesota State Fire Marshal;

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Mike Chaney, Mississippi State Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal;
Randy Cole, Missouri State Fire Marshal;
Allen Lorenz, Montana State Fire Marshal;
John Falgione, Nebraska State Fire Marshal;
James Wright, Nevada State Fire Marshal;
J. William Degnan, New Hampshire State Fire Marshal;
Lawrence Petrillo, Director, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety;
John Standefer, New Mexico State Fire Marshal;
John F. Mueller, New York Acting State Fire Administrator;
Wayne Goodwin, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal;
Raymond Lambert, North Dakota State Fire Marshal;
Larry Flowers, Ohio State Fire Marshal;
Robert Doak, Oklahoma State Fire Marshal;
Mark Wallace, Oregon State Fire Marshal;
Edward Mann, Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner;
John Chartier, Rhode Island State Fire Marshal;
Adolf Zubia, South Carolina State Fire Marshal;
Allen Christie, South Dakota State Fire Marshal;
Gary West, Tennessee Assistant Commissioner, Fire Prevention Division;
Chris Connealey, Presiding Officer, Texas Commission on Fire Prevention;
Brent Halladay, Utah State Fire Marshal;
John Wood, Vermont Department of Public Safety Deputy Commissioner;
Charles E. Altizer, Virginia State Fire Marshal;
Chuck Duffy, Washington State Fire Marshal;
Sterling Lewis Jr., West Virginia State Fire Marshal;
Tina R. Virgil, Wisconsin State Fire Marshal;
Lanny Applegate, Wyoming State Fire Marshal;