



State of Alaska

Department of Public Safety
Division of

Fire and Life Safety

Sarah Palin, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Paul Seaton, Representative
Alaska State Capital, Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton,

Thank you for sponsoring HCR 1 "Residential Fire Sprinkler Incentive Program". I support this resolution. Daily we encounter the ravages of fire as we are notified of fire events occurring throughout the State of Alaska. The single family residence is an area where we have little regulatory authority. Our data indicates that this is where most of our structure fires and almost all of Alaska's fire deaths occur.

The intention of this program is to help reward those who take this proactive step. Installing residential sprinklers not only makes for a safer living environment it reduces fire suppression costs and the hazard to firefighters. It also reduces the risk to insurance companies. This incentive program is a good step in that direction.

Individual responsibility is imperative to home fire safety. No one will take better care of you and your family than you. When those efforts fail nothing will protect you better than an operational residential sprinkler system. Even in our urban areas we loose far too many lives and homes to fire. The most effective way to save your home from fire is to prevent it in the first place. When we fail to prevent the fire a residential sprinkler system is the next best thing. The sprinkler system will usually extinguish the fire before the fire department gets on scene. At the very least it will contain the fire until help arrives.

I firmly believe it is appropriate to recognize those who do take this proactive approach to home fire safety and recommend this incentive program to encourage the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Respectfully,

David L. Tyler
State Fire Marshal