

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

Phone: 907-343-7100

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Mayor Dan Sullivan

February 3, 2010

The Honorable Linda Menard
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Proposed work draft of SB129

Dear Senator Menard:

I have reviewed the proposed work draft of SB129 (dated 1/4/10) and I appreciate your efforts to protect local decision-making requiring sprinklers in certain limited or special situation residential occupancies. You may be aware that when this legislation was first introduced, the Municipality of Anchorage had concerns about the implementation of the bill. I am pleased to see that a reasonable outcome has been achieved and based on the preservation of the conditions below; I favor the legislation currently in front of me:

1. The right to require "sprinkler fire protection systems" in new construction on a case-by-case basis. For example, a new home adjacent to a wooden historical structure, new home built in a high woodland fire danger zone, or other reasonable situation; and
2. The right for a local government to choose, after an extended open and transparent public process, to implement a mandatory "sprinkler fire protection system" requirement in the construction of all new one and two family residences

The extra public process required is appropriate for the issue of fire sprinklers in one and two-family dwellings. The issue is complicated and would require significant technical review in Alaska's cold climate. Likewise, the potential economic impacts on the homeowner would require significant scrutiny. As such, the requirement for the extra public hearings and advance public notice seems reasonable.

Thank you for your work and for providing the opportunity for me to comment. Please contact my intergovernmental affairs director, Stacy Schubert, if you have questions. She can be reached at 343-7112 or by email: Schuberts@muni.org.

Sincerely,

Dan Sullivan
Mayor

The logo for the Anchorage Home Builders Association (ahba) features the lowercase letters "ahba" in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized line-art outline of a house with a chimney and a gabled roof.

Affiliated with NAHB

February 10, 2010

The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Herron:

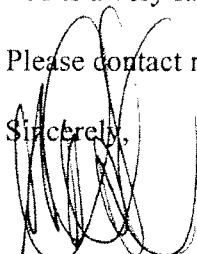
House Bill 202 has the full support of the Anchorage Homebuilders Association. As President, I speak for over 300 members who wholeheartedly agree that making fire sprinklers mandatory belongs at the local government level.

There are several reasons our association strongly supports this legislation: increased safety features in new homes in recent years have dramatically decreased fire injury and death; fire sprinklers are a burdensome cost to the homeowner and have significant maintenance issues; there are many concerns pertaining to cold climate installation.

Local government provisions in HB 202 leave it to communities to decide for themselves, after a public process, if requiring fire suppression systems is right for their area. Cost benefit analyses and public hearings would be required before a city adopted the fire sprinkler code. Given our concerns with making fire sprinklers mandatory, we feel HB 202 is a very fair compromise and maintains local control over the issue.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Andre Spinelli
President
Anchorage Home Builders Association

“Building Better Places to Live, Work and Play”

ANCHORAGE HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
8301 Schoon Street, Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99518 • (907) 522-3605 • Fax (907) 522-3757





February 10, 2010

The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB202 "An Act relating to state and municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings."

Dear Representative Herron:

On behalf of the membership of the Kenai Peninsula Builders Association, I would like to express our support of House Bill 202. We strongly believe that mandating fire sprinklers in one and two family adds a significant cost to a home owner and does not target the homes where fire deaths are occurring.

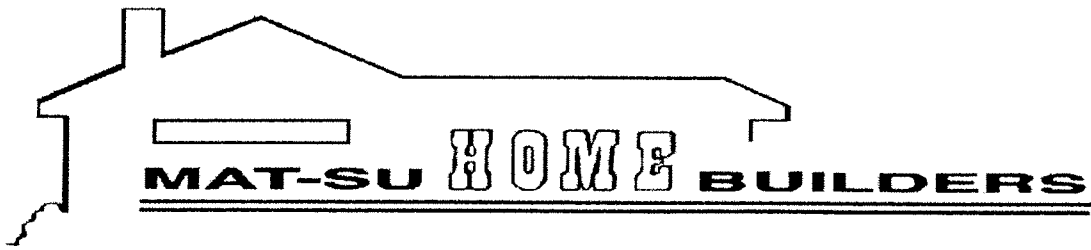
The current version of HB 202 ensures that the decision to mandate fire sprinklers is maintained at the local level. Built into the legislation are good public process parameters and special situations for fire sprinklers to be placed in homes near historical buildings, for example.

As President of the Kenai Peninsula Builders Association, we strongly urge the passage of HB 202 along with the Alaska State Home Building Association to ensure mandating fire sprinklers is left to local communities.

Please contact me with any questions you may have or to further discuss the issue.

Sincerely,

Bob Hammer
President
Kenai Peninsula Builders Association



6177 E. Mountain Heather Rd., Suite 6
Palmer, Alaska 99645

February 15th, 2010

The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Herron:

As President, I speak for over 120 members who wholeheartedly agree that making fire sprinklers mandatory belongs at the local government level. House Bill 202 has the full support of the Mat-Su Homebuilders Association.

Increased safety features in new homes in recent years have dramatically decreased fire injury and death; fire sprinklers are a burdensome cost to the homeowner and have significant maintenance issues; there are many concerns pertaining to cold climate installation. For these reasons, our association strongly supports this legislation.

HB 202 leaves it to communities to decide for themselves, after a public process, if requiring fire suppression systems is right for their area. Public hearings and cost benefit analyses would be required before a city adopted the fire sprinkler code. HB 202 is a very fair compromise and maintains local control over the issue.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", written over a vertical line that serves as a guide for the signature's placement.

Jeremy Doolaard
President
Mat-Su Home Builders Association



Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association

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February 10, 2010

The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Herron:

As President of the Southern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association, I am writing in support of HB 202 **“An Act relating to state and municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings.”** Based on current information, injury and death due to fires has significantly been reduced over the past two decades due to increased safety features in the construction of newer one and two-family homes. Requiring fire sprinklers unnecessarily burdens the homeowner with added costs and maintenance.

Passage of HB 202 maintains local government control over the requirement of fire sprinklers in new homes. The current version of the bill allows municipalities to decide, after a public process and cost benefit analysis, whether to implement fire sprinkler regulations in new one and two-family homes.

We fully support this legislation, along with the Alaska State Homebuilding Association. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss our Association's position.

Sincerely,

James Byron II, President
Southern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association