



## Plumbers & Pipefitters U.A. Local Union 262

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March 4, 2010

The Honorable Rob Herron  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Herron:

My name is Max Mielke. I am the Business Manager of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 262 and I oppose HB 202.

I represent 100 journeyman and apprentices throughout SE Alaska. I'm also a 56 year resident of Alaska. From 1983-2003, I was a volunteer firefighter in Juneau. The last 5 years as a volunteer firefighter I was a District Chief.

Because of my first hand experience as a fire fighter I have seen the devastating and long lasting effects to life and property due to fire. I have friends who have lost everything in a fire. Automatic sprinkler systems not only save thousands of lives but billions of dollars in property each year. National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) believes fire sprinkler systems are expensive. I tend to disagree. We have contractors, who are signatory with Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 262, who say installation of a residential sprinkler system costs on average one percent of the total cost of the house and could be done much cheaper if the home owner installs it themselves.

NAHB says residential construction technology over the last 20 years has dramatically dropped the number of fatal fires in Alaska and the US. I would like to point out that residential construction is only part of the equation. It's also a combination of education, smoke detectors and sprinkler systems.

I believe it should be left up to local municipalities to make their own decisions on residential fire sprinkler systems. These processes are already in place and are dealt with on a case by case basis at the local level.

Sincerely,

Max R. Mielke  
Business Manager  
UA Local 262

Cc: Representatives Johnson, Millett, Tuck, Stoltze, Johansen, Keller, Crawford, Munoz, Foster, Ramras, P. Wilson, Kelly, Kelly, Dahlstrom, Harris, Gatto