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February 4, 2011

Representative Kurt Olson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 130 - "An act relating municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings."

The Alaska Association of REALTORS® with over 1,600 members statewide supports House Bill 130, which relates residential sprinklers in certain residential buildings.

The Alaska Association of REALTORS® believes that HB 130 is a proactive response to a national movement to require fire sprinkler systems in one and two-family residential dwellings.

The mandate of sprinklers systems will cause a dramatic increase to not just the construction cost of homes, but also to the maintenance, resale and insurance costs.

The increased cost will keep many Alaskans from moving from older houses or rentals into otherwise safer and newly constructed homes that will offer modern smoke alarm systems, firewalling and other proven safety features. Yearly inspections and related upgrades and repairs will also be costly.

HB 130 asks that the people that are affected by this be advised of this incredible burden before the governing body adopts the new rule. Citizens of Alaska should not be subject to this mandate without proper notification and input.

The Association encourages the passage of House Bill 130.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dave Somers'.

Dave Somers
Alaska Association of REALTORS®
Industry Issues Chairman

