

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

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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