



ASSOCIATION

March 11, 2009

Senator Donny Olson
Chairman, Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Olson:

I am writing this letter in support of *Senate Bill 129 "An Act relating to state and municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings."*

I understand the State suffers many fatalities along with millions of dollars in property loss each year. I too feel very strongly that we need to help protect our most vulnerable residents. But unfortunately the most vulnerable are usually on a fixed or very modest income, and I believe that the added cost of fire sprinklers would make it very difficult if not impossible for them to afford a new house with the added protections.

With that being the case, our most vulnerable residents would not benefit at all. I think it would be in everyone's best interest to establish a program to encourage the *voluntary* installation of all available fire suppression technologies. I believe if it were like our energy rating for housing, maybe the State through AHFC could give an interest reduction on the mortgage if the house had the highest fire protection possible.

While I believe each Alaskan should be able to choose the appropriate level of home safety for their own dwelling, I am not in favor of ever being required to have **mandatory** fire sprinkler systems in one and two-family residences. I strongly urge legislators to pass this legislation.

As the president of the Mat-Su Home Builders Association representing over 150 members businesses, I hope you take the time to reflect on what the State can do to help all our residents. I truly appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Thank you.

Kyle P. Carr
President