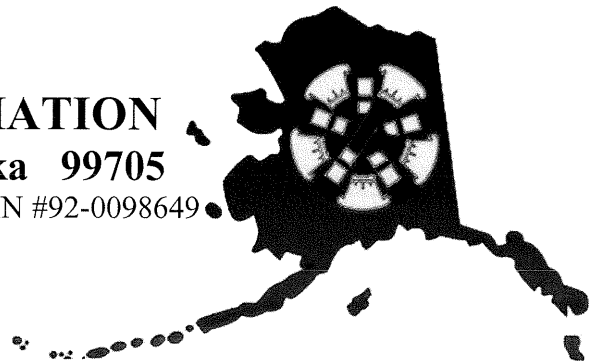


# **ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**

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17 March 2009

The Honorable Senator Olson  
Chair, Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Olson,

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association opposes Senate Bill 129, "An Act relating to state and municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings." The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association represents over 150 Fire and Emergency Leaders representing emergency services throughout Alaska. Our mission is to serve the people of the State of Alaska by influencing fire and emergency service programs and legislation and providing for the safety and well-being of firefighters and their communities. We oppose SB129 because,

1. The bill precludes fire officials from influencing legislation that can reduce the costs of providing fire services. Asset deployment decisions are based in part on the prevalence of existing fire protection systems and water supplies.
2. Precluding a municipality from adopting residential sprinkler standards could result in greater reliance on more expensive alternatives such as equipment, facilities, and staffing.
3. Prohibiting requirements for residential sprinklers may in some cases limit development. Large subdivisions with limited road access would not be allowed absent a residential sprinkler requirement.
4. Residential sprinklers are effective tools at holding residential fires in check, particularly in rural areas with long travel times and water supplies.

We most respectfully urge you to not pass this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Schrage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" being more prominent and the last name "Schrage" following in a similar style.

Doug Schrage, President