

As per our phone conversation earlier today I wanted the House L&C committee to be advised of the wishes of the builders and consumers that this bill will most impact. I am a builder in the mat-su, a past president and current member of the Board of Directors for the Mat-Su Home Builders Association.

It is no secret the majority of new construction in Alaska happens in the valley. The Board of Directors for the Mat-Su Home Builders Association, which is the industry trade association that represents builders in the Mat-Su valley, voted several months ago to OPPOSE the statewide building code bill in its current form. This vote had only one Director dissenting to the motion.

Further, at last years fall annual meeting of our general membership (our general membership includes Mat-Su Valley builders, contractors, vendors, realtors, title agents, mortgage lenders and inspectors) a poll was cast asking if the membership supported a statewide building code or if they preferred status quo. The poll was overwhelmingly in preference of status quo - 9:1 was the vote ratio.

The following is my opinion and not that of the MSHBA: This bill is a solution to a non-existent problem. The majority of builders in Alaska already have third party inspections, and most lenders require these inspections. There is no consumer organization asking for this. Additional unnecessary bureaucracy will do nothing but INCREASE wasteful government spending and INCREASE the cost of building houses when the legislature should be spending their time and resources finding a way to REDUCE the cost of building since there are so many young Alaskans for whom the American dream of homeownership is quickly becoming unattainable. I believe any representative that votes for this bill is negligent in their duties to their constituents. It is tantamount to levying a tax. It is also my belief that this bill is largely supported by Anchorage builders, who may be attempting (knowingly or subconsciously) to increase barriers and cost of building for construction in the valley to protect their market share. Do not aid in collusion to drive up the cost of a product.

Thank you,  
Maxwell Sumner