



February 28, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
900 Court St. NE, H-474
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Marsh and members of the Housing and Homeless Committee,

The National Fire Sprinkler Association urges you to support HB 3505 as amended. Our Association represents fire protection contractors, fire and building officials and stakeholders in Oregon and across the U.S. who promote the life- and property-saving benefits of fire sprinkler systems.

Fire sprinklers have been required in the national building codes since 2009 as most fire deaths occur in people's homes. While smoke alarms are essential in alerting occupants to a fire, fire sprinkler systems contain and often extinguish a fire, allowing the occupants life-saving time to escape. When a home fire occurs, in most cases only the sprinkler nearest the fire activates, emitting about 13-20 gallons of water per minute and controlling or extinguishing the fire while it is still small. In a home without fire sprinklers, it can take as much as 250 gallons per minute for each fire hose used by the fire department. Substantially more water is needed to fight the fire because the fire continues to increase in size before the fire department arrives.

Everyone is concerned about keeping the costs of homes affordable. While we respect that local districts set water-related charges depending on local needs, we believe that these varying requirements and costs create an unnecessary barrier to installing life-saving fire sprinklers. **An activated fire sprinkler system uses much less water than a manual fire department response; when not in use, fire sprinklers use no water.** Eliminating SDCs due to the presence of a residential fire sprinkler system makes sense from both a practical and life-safety standpoint.

Please pass HB 3505 as amended to help reduce barriers to the installation of lifesaving (and water-saving) fire sprinkler systems.

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