



MINNESOTA PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of the United Association
Composed of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
Of the United States and Canada
State Federation of Labor – A.F.L.-C.I.O.

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Duluth-Detroit Lakes
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #11

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Plumbers
Local #15

Minneapolis-St. Cloud
Pipefitters
Local #539

Minneapolis-St. Paul
Sprinkler Fitters
Local #417

Minneapolis
Gas Workers
Local #340

Moorhead
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #300

Rochester
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #6

St. Paul – Mankato
Plumbers
Local #34

St. Paul – Mankato
Pipefitters
Local #455

Virginia
Plumbers and Pipefitters
Local #589

Road Sprinkler Fitters
Local #669
District 28

March 1, 2021

Rep. Rob Ecklund, Chair
Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy

Dear Chair Ecklund:

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association is an umbrella organization representing nearly 10,000 men and women working in piping related industries throughout Minnesota, including licensed craft professionals that install, maintain and repair automatic fire sprinkler systems in residential, commercial and industrial applications. We are fully supportive of HF 109 and would like to thank Rep. Noor for authoring this important piece of legislation, as well as the other representatives that have signed on as co-authors.

There is an abundance of data that reflects the effectiveness of automatic fire sprinkler systems in saving lives and protecting property. Nonetheless, the occurrence of a tragic event is what often initiates dialogue, raising awareness of the need for sprinkler systems.

I submit the following as examples:

1980, MGM Hotel, Las Vegas NV (85 fatalities, +600 injuries)
2000, Boland Hall Dormitory, Seton Hall University, South Orange NJ
(3 deaths, 58 injuries)
Greenwood Health Center, Hartford CT (16 fatalities)
NHC Healthcare Center, Nashville TN (15 fatalities)

As a result of these tragedies, legislation or policy change was adopted, requiring ALL buildings open to the public in Nevada, and ALL dormitories in New Jersey be equipped with automatic sprinklers. The Government Accountability Office recommended nursing homes have automatic sprinkler systems in 2004; Centers for Medicare/Medicaid now require sprinkler systems for facilities participating in the Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement program.

H.F. 109 will go a long way toward ensuring another tragedy is avoided in Minnesota. I respectfully ask for your support of H.F. 109.

Sincerely,

David Ybarra, President