

March 3, 2025

Dear members:

The Minnesota Fire Association Coalition (MNFAC) is made up of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, the Minnesota State Fire Department Association, the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota.

The MNFAC supports House File 1334 (Noor, Igo, Howard) and Senate File SF1895 (Mohamud, Clark, Draheim). High-rise sprinkler system grant program modified, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency funding provided, money transferred, and money appropriated.

This bill appropriates \$10 million to expand retrofitting residential high-rise buildings with lifesaving fire sprinklers. Fire sprinklers are crucial in high-rise buildings because they can quickly contain and extinguish a fire at its source, preventing it from spreading rapidly throughout the building, thus giving occupants precious time to evacuate safely and minimizing damage to the structure, especially in scenarios where reaching higher floors with firefighting equipment can be difficult. Essentially, fire sprinklers save lives by providing immediate fire suppression in a situation where escape routes may be limited due to the building's height.

The bill also expands the application criteria to allow more to expand eligibility and protect more residents.

We appreciate your support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Chief BJ Jungmann Legislative Chair, MNFAC legislative@msfca.org