



# 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.

David Ybarra II, President  
353 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Suite 106  
St. Paul MN 55102  
(651) 291-5001

Jason Quiggin Secy.-Treas.  
353 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Suite 106  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 291-5001

May 9th, 2022

The Honorable Torrey Westrom  
3201 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Mike Sundin  
417 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

Chairmen Westrom and Sundin

On behalf of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association, I write to respectfully urge the Agriculture, Housing, and Broadband Committee to adopt the Senate position regarding a \$5 million appropriation to install fire-suppression sprinklers in certain high-rise buildings.

The provision is found in the Senate side-by-side on pages 48.6-48.19 (Art.5, Sec. 3(b)).

The Legislation was introduced this year as SF4170 (Dziedzic) and companion HF 4448 (Noor).

Efforts to address this glaring fire safety problem began last year, the culmination of a years-long effort to respond to the tragic November 2019 high-rise fire in Minneapolis that killed multiple people. Recall what the State Fire Marshall noted in his investigative report after the fire:

**It is the SFMD's position that all high-rise buildings should be protected with fire sprinkler systems. Had this building been protected with fire sprinklers, it is the opinion of the SFMD that no loss of life would have occurred.**

This bill represents the next step in that quest to protect ALL high-rise buildings.

Regardless of where a person lives or their economic circumstances, they deserve proactive protection from these highly dangerous, very deadly fires.

The same holds true for the first responders who are tasked to respond. Fire-fighters will tell you that high-rise fires are one of the most dangerous scenarios they face in a very dangerous line of work. We have been proud to partner with the fire-fighting professionals to assist legislators in crafting, debating, and passing legislation to install fire sprinkler systems in high-rise buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DMYbarra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David M. Ybarra, II

President

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association

CC: Sen. Rich Draheim

CC: Sen. Kari Dziedzic

CC: Sen. Eric Pratt

CC: Sen. Gene Dornink

CC: Rep. Alice Hausman

CC: Rep. Tama Theis

CC: Rep. Michael Howard

CC: Rep. Samantha Vang