



# 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. Ste. 106  
St. Paul MN 55102  
(651) 291-5001

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

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 14, 2023

The Honorable Lindsey Port  
95 University Ave. W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3213  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Port:

The Minnesota Pipe Trades Association is proud to support SF2483 and respectfully asks that all members of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention join you in passing this vital public safety legislation.

As you know, this bill supplements legislation passed previously in response to the tragic high-rise fire that killed five Minnesotans in November 2019.

The State Fire Marshal has testified that since 2004, there have been 65 fires in Minnesota that started on or above the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of a building, the vast majority of them being multi-family high-rise dwellings.

In cases where automatic fire-suppression sprinklers were present, all fires were quickly contained or extinguished.

Conversely, the Fire Marshal has concluded that the lack of an automatic sprinkler system in the apartment where the fire originated in November 2019 was a major factor in the deaths that occurred.

The State Fire Marshal Division Report on the Minneapolis High Rise Fire concluded:

*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.***

In short, it is the universal opinion of fire-fighting professionals that automatic fire-suppression systems in high-rise buildings save lives.

It should also be noted that these types of fires are especially dangerous for first responders who are tasked to fight these fires and rescue citizens. Carrying fire-fighting equipment up numerous flights of stairs into flame and smoke is a fire-fighter's nightmare.

While SF 2483 does not require the installation of fire-suppression systems, the proposed grant program very well may be enough for a building owner to retrofit their property with one. This is a tremendous benefit for the residents of the property, as well as fire fighting professionals tasked with battling the fires.

We are pleased to join with our public safety partners in supporting this bill.

These tragic deaths are avoidable. Installing fire-suppression systems is the best way to do that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DMY II', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David M. Ybarra II

President

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association