



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.

Andrew Campeau, President
353 W 7th Street – Room 106
St. Paul MN 55102
(651) 291-5001

Jason Quiggin, Secy.-Treas.
353 W 7th Street – Room 106
St. Paul MN 55102
(651) 291-5001

March 3, 2025

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 S.F. 1895 and respectfully asks that all of the 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 7th 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 Marshall 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 fire fighters and first responders who are tasked to fight these fires and rescue victims trapped within them. Carrying fire-fighting and medical equipment up numerous flights of stairs into a flame and smoke filled building is a nightmare.

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
Central Region
Local #669

While S.F. 1895 does not require the installation of fire-suppression systems, the proposed grant increase would certainly offset the overall costs for a building owner to retro fit their property with one. This would be a tremendous benefit for the residents of the property, as well as the fire fighting professionals tasked with battling these fires.

We are pleased to join with other individuals and organizations in supporting this bill.

The tragic deaths that still occur in high-rise dwellings are avoidable. Installing automated fire-suppression systems is the way to avoid them. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Andrew R. Campeau

President

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association