



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 7, 2012

The Honorable Michelle L. Fischbach
President of the Senate
226 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Madam President:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 284, Senate File 1717, a bill modifying the State Building Code, and amending Minnesota Statutes related to licensing and independent contractors.

This bill would prevent the State Building Code, the State Fire Code, or political subdivisions from requiring the installation of fire suppression sprinklers in new or existing single-family homes. Except for this anti-sprinkler mandate, which I vetoed last year, I could support this bill's other provisions. They include clarification of statutory language governing certain occupational licenses and apprenticeships, as well as a pilot program for registering construction providers and improvements in regulating independent contractors.

Installation of fire suppression sprinklers is required by the International Residential Building Code, which is currently being considered for adoption in Minnesota. Objections to its requirements would be best considered through the regular code adoption process, which is now underway. This process allows adequate notice, time for fact gathering, and a public hearing. Commissioner of Labor and Industry Ken Peterson is committed to ensuring that the code adoption process is fair. He has pledged to consider carefully all sides of the issue before making a final decision.

As I stated in my veto message last year, I take very seriously the concerns which fire safety professionals have expressed about the safety of home residents, their properties, and the lives of the men and women who courageously risk their lives to fight those fires. They are concerned that newly built homes burn more quickly, and that more firefighters are injured when floors collapse during fires. They contend that, with sprinkler systems in place, fires could be more readily contained, resulting in fewer injuries and deaths to homeowners and firefighters.

For those reasons I have vetoed this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator David H. Senjem, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Jeremy Miller
Representative Kurt Zellers, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Representative Mike LeMieur
The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives