



May 2nd, 2019

To: Senator Chuck Riley,
Chair of Senate Committee on Business and General Government

RE: Small Home Specialty Code Proposal HB 2423 (A-Engrossed April 17, 2019)

Dear Senator Riley and Committee;

The Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition encourages that HB 2423 not be approved, based on Section 2 item (6).

We have reviewed HB 2423, and are surprised that a provision to install a heat detector is being proposed as an alternate to allow a reduction in the level of sprinkler protection. In both the national 'model' and state building codes, fire sprinkler system designs are based on nationally recognized standards developed by technical committees that have members with a broad range of expertise in fire behavior and fire control.

As a coalition, we are not aware of any testing or data that supports the use of a heat or smoke detector, when acting independently from the sprinkler system, to lower the level of water required to control a fire in such a scenario. We think it is ill-advised for Oregon to modify design criteria without going through the appropriate national standards-development process.

We would like to also mention that there is a myth that sprinklers always mean a larger water supply than what the plumbing system would require. The sprinkler industry has had low-flowing type sprinkler devices on the market for years, and many stakeholders are simply not aware that you can often design a residential sprinkler system for a small home without changing or upsizing the meter. Many just assume they have to. This may seem technical, but it is an incredibly promising option when sprinklers are installed for any reason (tiny homes, access issues, alternate methods for middle-housing conversions etc).

The mission of the coalition, comprised of volunteers from the fire service, water districts, sprinkler industry and the home-builders association, is to provide education for policy-makers regarding the life-saving benefits of residential fire sprinklers. Fire sprinklers reduce fire injury and deaths, protect first responders, and provide savings for municipalities and fire districts.

As the committee reviews the various proposals submitted regarding this issue, the Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition would like to offer assistance in providing any needed resources or information on this topic. Please reach out if our members may be of assistance.

Chase A. Browning, Chair
Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition
541-601-8045
Chase.browning@cityofmedford.org