



May 4, 2011

Congressman Schock
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schock,

We are writing to request that you consider being the lead sponsor of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act.

The economic cost of fire damage in America is over \$107 billion. Annually we incur over 3,200 civilian deaths, 100 fire fighters die in the line of duty and over 16,000 injuries are incurred.

As Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors, we know first hand that the most effective way to minimize the loss of life and property is through automatic fire sprinklers. The National Fire Protection Association issued a study in June 2007 that concluded that in buildings that were sprinkled the death rate per fire can be reduced by at least 57% and the property damage decreased by up to 68%. This is because sprinklers contain fires at their location of origin almost 90% of the time. In fact, no fire fighter has ever died fighting a fire in a structure that was protected by a fire sprinkler system.

Although most new buildings are required to have fire sprinkler systems there is a huge inventory of older buildings that were put in service before fire codes required this life-saving and property-saving technology. This bill would seek to change this oversight by giving incentives to retrofit these older buildings.

Your leadership is very important on this issue. We feel you are critical to the successful passage of this life-saving legislation, which would benefit not only your Illinois constituents but all Americans.

In the last session of Congress, this legislation had the support of nearly half of the Members of the Ways & Means Committee. Most importantly, however, the proposed

legislation had and still has the support of the entire fire-service community who consider it to be crucial to their mission to protect lives and property from fire damage. Despite this, the economic and political climate makes passage of the bill very difficult. It is our hope that with your support and leadership we can overcome that which has held us back in the past, and finally pass this bill that will save lives and property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph Welter
Leonard Fabbri

Joseph Welter
President, NIFIA
847-537-0995
jwelter@vbg.org

Leonard Fabbri
Codes & Standards Committee, NIFIA
847-680-7813
leonardf60048@peoplepc.com