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The USA Sprinkler Fitters Association Battle Legislation that Denies Families a Safe Living Environment

Lodi, CA --- Although the [National Association of Home Builders](#) (NAHB) continue to protest mandatory requirements for home fire sprinklers, some home builders see the advantage of building homes with fire sprinklers because they simply save lives. In California, the [California Building Industry Association](#) (CBIA) have actually partnered with fire officials and others to successfully adopt a statewide home fire sprinkler requirement, which becomes effective January 1, 2011. Families in California will now be better protected in homes built next year, and thereafter. The [USA Sprinkler Fitters Association](#) believes that families residing in states where anti-sprinkler legislation has been successful will not be afforded the same level of fire protection.

For several years, statistics gathered by the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) have shown that more than 3,000 Americans die in home fires each year. This accounts for about 80% of all fire deaths each year across the nation. To stop these senseless tragedies, fire officials and others from across the nation convened in Minneapolis to vote to place a requirement in the [International Residential Code](#) (IRC) for fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings. This landmark vote brought us closer to reducing fire deaths and injuries due to fires in the home.

But, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) objected, complaining that fire sprinklers would be too costly and make homes unaffordable. The NAHB then responded by appealing the Minneapolis vote through the [International Code Council](#) (ICC) appeals process. The NAHB lost. So, the next year they countered by proposing a code change in the IRC to reverse the fire sprinkler requirement. The NAHB lost again by an overwhelming margin. Now, the NAHB, through its local affiliates have initiated anti-sprinkler legislation in almost every state.

Fire sprinklers are proven. They have been saving lives and property for over a century! National standards for home fire sprinklers now specify materials and design

criteria that make them economical. Yet, the NAHB continues to cry foul, claiming that costs make home fire sprinklers prohibitive. However, a home fire sprinkler system for the average size home costs no more than upgrading some carpets. [Randy Roxson](#) of the USA Sprinkler Fitters Association says “a law designed to prohibit states from adopting a national fire standard designed to save lives is the same as prohibiting states from enacting a seat belt law”.

Anti-sprinkler legislation comes in many forms; from prohibiting local fire officials from enforcing fire sprinkler requirements, to adding home builder positions to commissions having authority to specify building and fire code requirements. The USA Sprinkler Fitters Association closely scrutinizes legislation across the nation to find the next trick that would reduce life safety for our families.

[Stan Smith](#), President of the USA Sprinkler Fitters Association stated “the USA Sprinkler Fitters Association will continue to fight anti-sprinkler legislation developed by the NAHB and its local home builder associations. We encourage all those who care about the life safety of families to join us with the fight against legislation that will place consumers in harm’s way.” Mr. Smith continued, “One thing is for sure, as long as this fight continues, families will continue to die in home fires.”

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The USA Sprinkler Fitters Association is a non-profit organization made up of leaders from within the sprinkler fitter community from across the United States and Canada. The Association is committed to working with industry stakeholders to insure the highest quality of installation and ethical conduct in the sprinkler installation business.