

Sprinkler Systems, Inc.

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Fire Protection Professionals Since 1973

Testimony of J. Marc Kannegieser in Opposition to LD 1691

An Act To Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business. My name is Marc Kannegieser. I am a resident of Minot and I am here today to testify against LD 1691.

Sprinkler Systems, Inc. is a State of Maine licensed fire sprinkler contractor in accordance with State of Maine fire sprinkler laws and regulations in place since 1990. I have worked at Sprinkler Systems, Inc. since 1979, owned the company since 2007, and assisted lawmakers and our industry from 1988-1990 to form the current fire sprinkler regulations and laws that are implemented in the State of Maine. Our company is licensed and conducts business with customers throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

The current Maine sprinkler laws and statutes:

- Provide insurance benchmarks and professional requirements for contractor licensing
- Provide permitting and State oversight for life-safety design continuity
- Require nationally recognized design certification by licensed contractors
- Require accountable national standards for any installation and maintenance
- Require training and education for inspection technicians
- Require professional sign-off compliance and accountability for all Maine projects

The current sprinkler laws along with the State Fire Marshal's office "level the playing field" for all fire sprinkler contractors working in Maine as well as provide municipalities, businesses, and private individuals with a safety net and level of legal mandated performance that is unparalleled in New England. **Maine is the most progressive and organized state in New England regarding fire sprinkler regulation.**

The current Fire Sprinkler Laws in the State of Maine are an excellent example of private industry and Maine government working together to provide the highest level of life safety and welfare for its constituents and businesses.

LD 1691 will eliminate a proven regulatory and lawful system that provides an important backbone to the construction industry as well as every municipality in Maine.

I thank the Committee for considering these viewpoints and welcome your questions anytime.

