



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
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Lt. Governor

LORI GRIFA  
Commissioner

August 12, 2010

Robert Young  
American Fire Sprinkler Assoc.  
Chairman  
American Fire Sprinkler Association  
80 Murphy Road  
Port Monmouth, New Jersey 07758

Dear Mr. Young:

On behalf of the NJ Department of Community Affairs, I am writing to inform you of the decision not to require sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings at this time. We understand and sincerely appreciate the position of your organization with regard to this important issue.

The decision not to require sprinklers along with the other changes to the Uniform Construction Code was the result of weighing and balancing the public benefit against the perceived need. All of the statements, both in support and in opposition, were given the serious consideration that they deserve, as evidenced by the delay in the adoption process.

Ultimately, the decision in this matter came down to a question of timing. In the current economic climate, it is paramount that State agency policies be sensitive to their impact on our economic recovery. The imposition of an additional cost that might impede the recovery of the residential construction sector, however desirable the result might be, is a step that cannot be taken at this time.

The Department will monitor both the recovery of the residential construction industry in New Jersey and the economic impact of residential sprinkler installation requirements in other jurisdictions with the intention of revisiting the issue when the 2012 edition of the International Residential Code is published. In the interim, the Department is adopting the technical requirements for the installation of automatic fire sprinkler protection systems in new one- and two-family dwellings in order to give those who choose to install such systems the benefit of using the most current technology in system design.

I want to personally thank you for your participation as well as that of your organization in the public policy debate on this issue. I look forward to continuing to work with you and with the members of your organization.

Sincerely,

LORI GRIFA  
Commissioner

