

Resolution No.   6

Date: 10/12/2013

City: Colorado Springs, CO

NAHB Resolution

Title: Federal Funding for Fire Safety  
Sponsor: State Representatives  
Submitted by: Phil Hoffman

WHEREAS, the federal government provides funding to entities that advocate for the mandatory installation of residential fire sprinklers in single family homes and townhomes;

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the state legislatures have enacted laws that prohibit code adopting bodies from requiring residential fire sprinklers;

WHEREAS, the number of home fire deaths has declined dramatically since smoke alarms were first installed in America's homes and, according to National Fire Protection Association, if every home had at least one working smoke alarm, an additional 890 lives would be saved annually;

WHEREAS, smoke alarms are capable of quickly detecting and alerting occupants to all types of fires, while sprinklers will only operate if the fire grows large enough to activate the system;

WHEREAS, studies comparing the operation of smoke alarms to sprinklers in reported fires have shown that when present, smoke alarms operated in 95 percent of the fires, while sprinklers only operated in 46 percent of the reported fires;

WHEREAS, in jurisdictions where fire sprinklers are an option, home buyers have shown little to no interest in residential fire sprinklers; and

WHEREAS, NAHB continues to oppose mandatory residential sprinklers for multifamily low-rise and single-family residential construction and other fire protection techniques that do not enhance the safety of occupants and are not cost effective,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders urge Congress and the relevant agencies to focus funding and other efforts on educating the public on the proper installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in all U.S. homes rather than advocating for the mandatory installation of residential fire sprinklers.

Board of Directors Action:

Executive Board Action:

Resolutions Committee Action:

Construction, Codes & Standards Committee Action:

Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:

State Representatives Action:

Approved

Recommends Approval

Recommends Approval

Recommends Approval

Recommends Approval

Recommends Approval