

Heather Dorbeck

From: Corey Woodby on behalf of Senate Majority Committee Clerks
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 8:01 AM
To: Heather Dorbeck
Subject: FW: SB 954

FYI

Corey Woodby
Senate Majority Committee Clerk
517-373-1721

From: Mike Winkler [mailto:MikeW@hct.holland.mi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 7:51 AM
To: Senate Majority Committee Clerks <OfcSMCC@senate.michigan.gov>
Subject: SB 954

Please make this part of the record in the committee meeting today.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email regarding our concerns with SB 954 that is scheduled for a hearing today. I have been authorized and encouraged by our members to contact you about the proposed change to the requirement of a licensed professional to design fire alarm systems.

Fire alarm systems are only required in buildings with large numbers of people and there is nothing more important to occupant safety than a fire alarm system. In today's world, these very high tech systems require a great deal of expertise to design them properly. The only way currently to insure the system is designed by a qualified designer is to rely on the engineers seal on the plans. The changes you are being asked to consider today would allow anyone off the street, regardless of skill or qualifications, to design fire alarm systems with virtually no accountability.

These systems are too complex for our inspectors to catch every flaw, especially with a severe shortage of inspectors and the lack of time we have to devote to each job site. We rely on the partnership we currently have with the licensed designer and a qualified installer to insure that the fire alarm system will work when needed. Please do not consider removing a key element to that team.

At the very least, we ask that you table this agenda item until you have had a chance to hear from the fire service.

Mike Winkler, President
Code Officials Conference of Michigan
PH: 616.395.0196