

TO: Legal & Finance Committee

FROM: Black Hills Home Builders Association

DATE: August 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Ordinance 6049 Fire Protection of Floors

In response to the letter dated August 12, 2015 from Assistant, Chief Behlings, we have been involved in code review processes with the city. Much of the code is driven by manufacturers who want their products in the code and have personal agendas. Our position as builders is that we cannot continue to drive the cost of housing up without negative results. NAHB has determined that when a house goes up \$1,000 in price. This means that 200,000 people will no longer qualify for that home. These are nationwide figures but considering the financial make up of our city and state that's a lot of people that can no longer have a piece of the American Dream.

We would agree that as the code is currently written, you couldn't make changes to affect cost and violate the code. The only way to reduce cost is to have some common sense approach to what actually provides value and meets the intent of the code. Some of the areas we are looking at involve; the state electrical code, which will require legislative action at a state level and this is not an overnight process. We would appreciate any help the fire department can give to us in the legislative process with the state legislature.

We intend to remain engaged in this process, to provide safe housing at the most affordable cost so that people can have a piece of the American Dream, which is why we cannot accept this ordinance.

If you have any questions, please call our Government Affairs Chairman, Jeff Lage at 605-381-2003.

Thank you,



Jay Mendel, President  
Black Hills Home Builders Association