

HIGH RISE FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT

H.R.173/S.504

The legislation helps protect lives and property by incentivizing building owners to retrofit high-rise residential buildings with fire sprinkler systems by reducing the length of the depreciation schedule.

Background

Thirty years ago, you may have had around 20 minutes to escape your home in the event of a fire; today, you may have just 3 min to escape.

This is due to factors such as synthetic materials burning faster, lighter construction, and open floor plans.

Fires in high-rise buildings are extremely dangerous, testing the limits and capability of even the best fire departments. They require more resources (including personnel, equipment, and water).

Fire sprinklers can help reduce risk to lives and property. Current building codes require fire sprinklers in high-rise new construction. However, many high-rise buildings (above 75 feet) still do not have fire sprinkler systems.

Congress has acted to ensure commercial properties are protected via the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Now Congress must protect residences, residents, and first responders.

Ask

▶ Cosponsor the High-Rise Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R.173/S.504).

Talking Points

▶ Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

In buildings with sprinkler systems, the civilian death rate per fire can be reduced by 90% and the injury rate reduced by 32% .

The risk of death to firefighters is nearly eliminated in a fully sprinklered structure and the injury rate is lowered by 35% when sprinklers are present.

▶ Fire Sprinklers Protect Property

Homes with sprinklers can minimize property loss by up to 55% in the event of a fire.

▶ Maximize Opportunities for Risk Reduction

Tax incentives are a model of government-business collaboration to reduce risk and create safer infrastructure.

▶ Congress Must Protect Residents and Businesses

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped incentivize sprinklers in commercial properties. There is currently no similar incentive to protect people in their own apartments.

