



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

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Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the  
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Opponent for HB 2026 • February 12, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2026, the Fire Sprinkler Industry Act. While the Kansas Association of Counties is a strong supporter of safety and advocates for the protection of Kansas families and businesses, HB 2026 adds an unnecessary layer of government without increasing the level of protection for our fellow Kansans. Additionally, the Kansas Association of Counties opposes HB 2026 because this bill would take away some degree of local control in the form of building code enforcement.

HB 2026 gives new authority to the state fire marshal to issue licenses to individuals installing fire sprinklers. However, some of the criteria for receiving the license do not seem to focus on installation skills or competence. The technical skills required to properly install this equipment should be the primary focus of any licensure requirements.

Additionally, because HB 2026 would allow the state fire marshal to overrule local building codes, the Kansas Association of Counties and its member counties would stand in opposition to such legislation. Again, without outlining a clear need for why the local standard would be overruled, the Kansas Association of Counties opposes this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jay Hall' in a cursive script.

Jay Hall

Kansas Association of Counties

