

## Submitted Testimony

**From:** mbetts@aol.com [mailto:mbetts@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 4:56 PM  
**To:** datco@bendcable.com  
**Subject:** Re: Important BCD Hearing!

Oregon Residential Specialty Code Committee :

With the state of your current economy it would be ill advised to tack additional cost to new single family residential construction. Current permitting fees and local jurisdictions fees have already attached additional cost that are passed on to the owners, these cost can easily add an additional \$5 to \$10 per square foot, or even graeter to the the costs of a new dwelling. Adding additional costs for a fire sprinkler system will not help the home building industry make a recovery in Oregon.

In additional to the added construction costs there will also be additional design cost and inspection costs that will also be passed onto the home Owner. It is understandable that the concept of adding a fire sprinkler systems to a new single family dwelling would hopefully reduce fire related damage and protect lives, but one must ask what is the fire risk for new construction. With modern day construction materials, techniques and building codes, we are constructing a safe house for people to live in. Older homes with out of date wiring and framing that may not include fire blocking and draft stops present a grater risk of catching fire. Does this proposed building code change address older existing homes?

Other items to consider are:

Burdens to local infrastructure, if infrastructure needs to be upgraded to provide for additional water for new fire sprinkler lines, how will these costs be covered? Local jurisdictions can not afford to make these upgrades so costs will be ultimately passed on to the home Owner.

If water pressure is not adequate to support a fire sprinkler system, pumps may be needed, and if pumps are needed will additional reservoir systems be needed to assure pumps have enough water to provide to a sprinkler system in case of an event.

These are just a couple of items that need to be addressed before a decision should be made.

Again can the State of Oregon afford to add cost to new construction at this time. I would encourage the commity to not approve or recomend this change to the building code.

Sincerely,

Marc Betts, CPBD, AIBD