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**Arizona Fire
Chiefs
Association**

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January 26, 2009

The Honorable Sam Crump
Arizona State House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: HB 2267 - Legislation to pre-empt local jurisdictions throughout Arizona from using proven safety components identified in the national consensus codes.

Dear Representative Crump;

The Arizona Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) serves the State's Chief Officers by providing leadership through involvement, networking, professional development, education on community safety issues; and as a forum to improve the fire and emergency services throughout the State of Arizona. We are also members of the Western Fire Chiefs and the International Fire Chiefs Association and will be joining them in expressing our deep concerns and solid opposition to the measures outlined in HB 2267.

Arizona Fire service organizations have a genuine and vested interest in saving the public's lives, property and firefighter lives as well. We have worked diligently for years with numerous local, national and international groups to develop and make recommendations to local and national model codes that will provide increased opportunities to protect our community's valuable assets. A major challenge has been to effectively address the numerous changes in lightweight construction techniques and the challenges of faster and hotter fires resulting from the increased fire loads that are common in today's commercial and residential structures.

These types of important safety and policy decisions are best made at a local community level with additional debates occurring through the national consensus process. Our membership doesn't believe that it is proper for the legislature to attempt to micro-manage the national code development process with these types of special interest bills. This bill will severely interfere with the ability of local jurisdictions to adopt codes and standards appropriate to their environment. Taking any action as proposed in HB 2267, which would prohibit any Arizona jurisdiction from adopting specific features of a national consensus code is a huge mistake and just very bad legislation. Cities and rural communities both would be hurt by this legislation in providing public safety needs to the citizens we serve.

HB 2267 will single out Arizona as the State that caters more to a special interest group than the lives and valued property of its citizens. The AFCA and Arizona's fire service professionals will continue to join with other local and national fire and safety groups to aggressively oppose and defeat this type of misguided effort that attempts to discourage or prevent the use of proven, enhanced safety measures.

The AFCA urges swift action to remove this potentially dangerous legislation from consideration. This is a major issue and concern for our members and we would embrace the opportunity to meet with and educate any member on the substantial life safety benefits that fire protection systems provide for our citizens, firefighters and communities.

Sincerely;

Larry Rooney
President Arizona Fire Chiefs Association

Copy to: [Arizona's Legislative Members]

