



McKEON DOOR COMPANY

Creative Solutions • Innovative Designs • Proven Products

June 19, 2015

Mr. Stephen Jones, Chairman
ICC Nominating Committee
International Code Council, Birmingham District Office
900 Montclair Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

Re: Stuart Tom, PE, CBO, Endorsement for ICC Board of Directors, Section A

Dear Mr. Jones,

McKeon Rolling Steel Door Co., Inc., is a global manufacturing organization providing both fire rated and non-fire rated wide-span opening protectives to the construction industry as solutions for design challenges. Our emphasis on special purpose fire door systems provides architects and design professionals with a wide range of options for maintaining open design without compromising compliance with fire and life safety code requirements.

Over the years this industry has tutored us, that what drives our product applications is the model building codes and their referenced standards. As a result, our marketing efforts, which encompass a worldwide network of over 100 distributors, are centered in architectural and regulatory arena consulting efforts. In other words, if you want to represent the McKeon Door Company product line you must become, at the very least, a quasi building and fire code consultant. We teach our distributor network that it is more important they maintain a membership and active presence in their local ICC Chapter than AIA or CSI. In essence we are not marketing doors we are marketing openings!

Standard marketing presentations to our design community clients are not centered in products and their features. A McKeon AIA or ICC accredited box lunch meeting with an architectural firm as presented by the local distributor is centered in Chapters 3 thru 10 of the IBC. The focus is on the five walls, their openings, opening protective requirements and appropriate uses throughout the structure. These code principles are illustrated through case studies such as occupancy separation, vertical opening separation, area separation and smoke compartmentation. The McKeon distributor network is required to be proficient in teaching fundamental code principles.

Stuart Tom has played a significant role in the development of this marketing paradigm. Many years ago I met him for the first time as a member of the LA Basin Chapter and as the CBO in Glendale, California. I will always remember and cherish those early days in this effort because of Stuart's tremendous insights and talents. Oftentimes industry can be viewed by regulatory officials as self-serving in the sense that membership in ICC may be motivated by simply pushing products or influence. Even though there are some in the industry who may seek that path, there are those of us who truly are there to learn and to serve. Stuart recognized immediately my purposes for being involved with he and his peers. In a matter of speaking he took me in and became a wonderful mentor to me in the world of regulatory personnel, code development and enforcement.

In many venues, from over the counter to large public presentations, I soon discovered Stuart's understanding of the codes and building practices was head and shoulders above most others. His adeptness to teaching and helping others to understand has been unique and much sought after. But perhaps even more admirable has been his intuition to think beyond the status-quo or wont practices and methodology. He recognized the importance of collaborating with industry in order to not only keep up with the latest trends but cultivate lasting and productive relationships of trust to strengthen the effort.

When I saw him teach, it inspired me to learn and teach better. When I saw him listen to everyone's input and carefully weigh all factors in a final decision it caused me to do more homework and create an environment of equity and fairness. When I felt as though I had been treated unfairly due to lack of understanding, Stuart would step into the situation, study the facts, whether it be a code section or the fine print in a test standard, and help everyone to feel like a winner without compromising the safety of building occupants.

I have watched him during code training presentations field the toughest questions without giving in to ego or pride. If he didn't know the answer, which seldom happened, he would always say, "I don't know but I will find out for you." Oftentimes when we met one-on-one I would save my "dumbest" code questions for him because he always made me feel okay about not knowing something. He has a unique ability to have everyone he meets feel okay around him.

At McKeon we teach an ICC approved 5 hour PPP course covering Chapters 3 thru 10 of the IBC. We have authored a 100 page code commentary on wide span opening protectives in the IBC. We have literally created a fire door industry distributor network of well informed code consultants in lieu of door sales staff. Much of our teaching style, code structure and methodology is patterned after the mentorship of Mr. Stuart Tom.

Stuart Tom's leadership prowess is gifted and unusual. He is well respected literally anywhere his name is mentioned. We at McKeon Door Company, as represented by our own staff as well as our distributor network, endorse Mr. Stuart Tom for the ICC Board of Directors for Section A.

Should you have a desire to discuss any of these issues in greater detail, we would welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely,
McKEON DOOR COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Dodge". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David L. Dodge
Vice President
Business & Code Development
McKeon Door Company