

July 28, 2026

David Spencer, Nominating Committee Chairman
International Code Council, Birmingham District Office
900 Montclair Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

RE: Letter of Support – Andy Higgins, Re-Election to ICC Board of Directors,
Director At-Large

Dear Mr. Spencer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Permit Technicians Association (OPTA), I am pleased to offer our support for Andy Higgins' candidacy for re-election to a Director At-Large position on the ICC Board of Directors at the 2026 Annual Business Meeting.

The Committee already has Andy's record in front of it, so we won't repeat his resume here. Instead, we want to tell you what his leadership has meant to the colleagues who've actually worked alongside him.

Washington's Building Officials and Permit Technicians chapters had drifted apart. There wasn't one clean cause, which made it harder to fix. Under Andy's stewardship, the two groups rebuilt that bridge. They coordinate so training and information stay consistent across both organizations, operating as partners rather than competitors.

It's the same instinct behind his work as a founding leader of WABO's Code Official Accreditation Program, which built a Permit Technician track into the same structure used to train building officials, a program where Kelly Thompson, Vice President of the Washington State Association of Permit Technicians, teaches alongside Building Official faculty. This reflects Andy's belief that a Permit Technician's expertise belongs at the same table as a Building Official's.

That belief is why OPTA is stepping outside our usual neutrality to endorse Andy personally. Permit Technicians are technical subject matter experts on the permitting process and are now formally recognized as code officials. With national attention focused on fees, timelines, and barriers to housing affordability, OPTA supports candidates who recognize that expertise as a resource and who are committed to an ICC that engages its full membership when shaping solutions.

We've watched Andy treat permit techs, plans examiners, inspectors, and building officials as equals, each bringing expertise the others don't have, rather than ranking one role above another. That's not a small thing in an organization as large as ICC, where it would be easy for a board member to default to the most senior voices in the room.

OPTA proudly endorses Andy Higgins for a three-year term as a Director At-Large on the ICC Board of Directors. He represents the core values of ICC and brings the experience necessary to unite its membership in support of the organization's mission, and we urge the Committee's support of his candidacy.



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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Regan M. Trapp
President, Oregon Permit Technicians Association

cc: OPTA Board of Directors