



International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
tel: 888.icc.safe (422.7233)
tel: 202.370.1800
fax: 202.783.2348
www.iccsafe.org

June 3, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Bingaman and Murkowski:

Over the past several months, our Government Relations staff, our Board Members, and I have had the pleasure of meeting with you, your respective professional committee staff members, and other members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, to discuss proposed energy legislation to be considered in the Committee.

We have been impressed by your interest in understanding the complex system of building codes and standards in the United States, and the unique partnership between state and local officials, and the private sector organizations that facilitate the development of the building codes and standards that have made buildings in the United States the safest buildings to work and live in the world, as well as making those buildings increasingly more environmentally sustainable and energy efficient.

The International Code Council, an organization of nearly 50,000 code compliance officials and building industry professionals, is proud to produce the coordinated set of model codes, the International Codes, covering all aspects of construction for both residential and commercial construction, that are used in all 50 states, and increasingly, around the world.

We are currently engaged in assisting the states and local governments meet the challenges in the recently passed stimulus legislation, to adopt and enforce the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), to achieve much higher building energy efficiency in the built environment. We are looking forward to achieving even higher efficiency as the 2009 IECC is adopted, and enforced, and we see the potential for higher building efficiency if codes requiring higher efficiency are both developed, and then adopted and enforced at the local level. We need to be clear however, that development of high efficiency model codes, without adoption and enforcement, will not advance energy efficiency.

The Committee draft, released on May 12, reflects much of the input we have provided regarding the need for enforcement and adoption incentives, the need for continuing and increased Department of Energy participation in the code development process and the need for a "second chance" if the open code process should fall slightly short of the aggressive goals in the legislation.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this legislation, as the process continues.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Weiland
Chief Executive Officer

RPW/sy