

April 5, 2011

Honorable Paul LePage
Governor of Maine
#1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Governor LePage,

We are writing to convey our strong support for Maine's Uniform Building & Energy Code. Our associations represent over 1,500 members businesses: builders, contractors, architects, engineers, developers, lumber dealers and others involved in the building trades. This code provides much needed uniformity across the state, streamlining the development of both residential and commercial development and construction. It provides a common standard that protects consumers and helps to ensure that new buildings in Maine are created to meet at least a minimum standard for safe, sound, and energy-efficient construction.

More than 40 states, including Maine, have set a uniform building code requirement. Maine would lag behind other states if we abandoned these important building standards, which are based on a common framework, developed by professionals in the industry.

Our industry is striving to contribute to Maine's economy and believe that a transition to a statewide code is timely, as it will increase the quality of residential and commercial buildings as construction begins to come back. The people who purchase our construction services, developers and businesses especially in the commercial sector, tell us that having a statewide code makes it easier and less costly for them to develop.

Another component of the code is an energy code, which will help Maine homeowners, renters and businesses save money on energy bills. In fact, homeowners will save money with the code from day one, according to a careful Maine-based analysis. Among the many costs currently born by Maine from inefficient buildings that will be reduced by effective codes over time are tens of millions of dollars spent every year for LIHEAP and Low Income Weatherization and more than \$10 million spent per year in insurance claims for ice dam damage.

Maine finally adopted a uniform statewide code in 2010. **Please help support our businesses by keeping the code in place, including the appropriate enforcement mechanisms. We urge you to oppose legislation that would repeal or weaken the code or its implementation.** If enforcement were eliminated from Maine's law, the result would be an uneven playing field that would make it more difficult for most of us to compete.

The Maine Legislature was wise to pass a law to develop and implement the code over time, including provisions to ease—and in many cases eliminate—obligations on Maine's smaller towns. We strongly support staying the course on implementing this code.

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the benefits that the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code will bring to the state and our economy.

Thank you,
[Undersigned on reverse]

Paul Lariviere
American Council of Engineering Companies of Maine

Susan Koch
American Institute of Architects, ME Chapter

John O'Dea
Associated General Contractors

Sandy Mathieu
Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Maine

Bob Howe
Maine Association of Building Efficiency Professionals

Mike Richard
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers, ME Chapter

Charlie Huntington
Maine Contractors & Builders Alliance

Steve Ribble
Maine Society of Landscape Architects

Kayte Charette
U.S. Green Building Council, ME Chapter