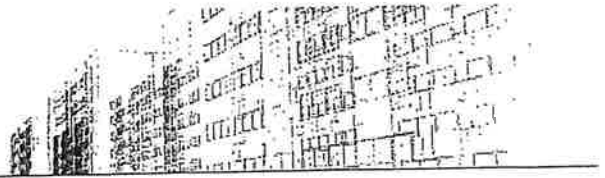


Coalition for Current Safety Codes



May 1, 2023

To Legislators

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB 488

The members of the Coalition for Current Safety Codes urge the tabling of HB 488. This legislation will undermine the current duties of the North Carolina Building Code Council while proposing to freeze future code amendments until 2031. The passage of this bill will have long-term adverse effects on all the residents of the state for the following reasons:

- HB 488 and its Senate companion Bill, SB 378, will put North Carolinians at a severe disadvantage in future Disaster Preparedness and Recovery funding.
- The bills propose preventing any modifications to the state's residential, mechanical, fuel gas and energy conservation codes through 2031. Effectively freezing the codes for more than 12 years will hinder benefits from advances in construction technology while also preventing North Carolinians from enjoying additional energy savings. Freezing energy codes until 2031 will result in North Carolina forfeiting a portion of the \$225 million worth of grants currently available from the federal government for upgrades in energy code adoptions and enforcement.
- Delaying updates to the state's codes on a more consistent and regular cycle could potentially downgrade the state's ISO/Verisk *Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule* values, which could ultimately increase insurance premiums, especially in areas prone to catastrophic storms and disasters.
- In addition, any further delay in adopting updated building codes will adversely affect North Carolina's ability to potentially qualify for additional funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). North Carolina communities, counties, and tribes would be even less likely to obtain FEMA grant funding if residential code standards are frozen until 2031. With the ever-increasing frequency and magnitude of disasters, North Carolina cannot afford to be vulnerable to the potential loss of federal FEMA funding and recovery costs.

The residents of North Carolina have a process in place to review and approve modifications to the national model building codes. This legislation will only serve to add long-term expenses to the ever-increasing cost of home ownership in the state.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that HB 488 be tabled.

Stephen D. Jones, CBO, MCP, MS
International Code Council.

See Coalition
LO 605 on p. 2



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