

One Region Moving Forward

November 28, 2012

Mr. Anthony Clatterbuck, Chairman
Board of Housing and Community Development
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Mr. Clatterbuck:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development to adopt the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as the basis for the energy provisions of the Unified Statewide Building Code.

Achieving energy efficiency in buildings is a top COG priority because buildings account for two-thirds of all energy consumed in the Metropolitan Washington Region. In 2007, the COG Board of Directors adopted a report, "Greening the Metropolitan Washington Region's Built Environment," that called for updating building codes to reflect the green standards and regulations. COG's *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* recommendations emphasize the need for enhancing building codes to include energy efficiency.

COG supported building code officials and permitting staff from across the Metropolitan Washington region to attend the International Code Council's Final Action Hearings in Charlotte, NC in 2010. The participants, over 30 of who were from Northern Virginia jurisdictions, helped adopt "The 30% Solution 2012" which resulted in 30% greater energy efficiency than the 2006 baseline.

COG encourages adoption of the 2012 IECC by all its member jurisdictions. The State of Maryland has adopted the 2012 IECC and the District of Columbia is moving towards adoption in 2013. We believe it is important for Virginia to adopt the 2012 IECC to create a minimum standard for construction across the Commonwealth and the region. We encourage you to adopt the substantial requirements of the 2012 IECC.

If you have any questions regarding COG's position on this issue, please call me at 703-228-3130 or Stuart Freudberg, COG Director of Environmental Programs at 202-962-3340.

Sincerely,

Jay Fiset, Chair
COG Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee
Arlington County Board

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