



Good afternoon Chairman, Members and Staff of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards. My name is Dottie Harris; I am the Vice President of State & Local Government Relations and your liaison to the International Code Council. The International Code Council, is a member-focused association dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.

I am appearing before you today in support of the adoption of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code, (IECC). The IECC is adopted at the state or local level in 48 states, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. I have attached the statewide adoption chart which shows which version of the International Codes (I-Codes), each state is enforcing as well as the IECC Adoption Map. To date, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Vermont, and Washington have adopted the 2015 IECC statewide. New York State and New York City have also adopted the 2015 IECC which become effective on October 3, 2016.

The I-Codes, including the IECC are regularly revised and updated by a national consensus process that strikes a balance between the latest technology and new building products, economics and cost while providing for an acceptable level of public and first responder safety. It is an open, inclusive process that encourages input from all individuals and groups and allows those governmental members that are public safety officials to determine the final code provisions. I am pleased that several MA code officials and other organizations participated in the 2015 ICC Code Hearings. This involvement is critical to the success of 2015 International Codes (I-Codes) as well as each future version. The expertise of Massachusetts building and fire officials, design professionals, builders, contractors, labor representatives and all organizations interested in building safety are vital to your adoption efforts as well as ours.

The 2015 International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) yields positive benefits for U.S. residents and significant energy savings for the nation. According to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Report entitled, "Energy and Energy Cost Savings Analysis of the 2015 IECC for Commercial Buildings" issued August 2015, provided an assessment as to whether new buildings constructed to the commercial energy efficiency provisions of the 2015 IECC would save energy and energy costs as compared to the 2012 IECC. PNNL also compared the energy performance of the 2015 IECC with the corresponding Standard 90.1-2013. The purpose of their analysis is to help states and local jurisdictions make informed decisions regarding model code adoption. The report found that "overall, the 2015 edition of the IECC results in site energy savings of 11.5% at the aggregate national level compared to the 2012 IECC edition." The report also noted that 2015 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2013, "are within 1% for both energy use and energy cost." The full report can be found at: https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2015_IECC_Commercial_Analysis.pdf

Additionally, according to a National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) report dated 3/12/13, revealing what home buyers really want, the "First and foremost" response was, "energy efficiency. Some of the most wanted features involve saving energy, i.e. energy-star rated appliances and windows, and an energy-star rating for the whole home. Nine out of ten buyers would rather buy a home with energy-efficient features and permanently lower utility bills than one without those features that costs 2 percent to 3 percent less."

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. The International Code Council pledges our support to Massachusetts in the adoption of the 2015 IECC. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and I look forward to the announcement of the public hearing on the adoption of the 9th Edition of the Building Code.