

September 7, 2016

Members of the House/Senate Energy Conference Committee:

As associations representing the manufacturing and building construction sectors and the millions of jobs within those sectors, we strongly support the important role that consensus-based model energy codes play at the state level in encouraging the adoption of efficiency technologies for homes and commercial buildings. These technologies play a vital role in saving energy and money, while at the same time helping lower greenhouse gas emissions. Our businesses not only create the materials and technologies that deliver efficiency, including insulations, roofing, windows and piping, but also help install materials, as well as maintain and improve performance over the long life cycle of homes and buildings.

We support the consensus-based, bipartisan energy code provision contained in S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, which strengthens national model codes that are already certified, adopted and in-use by 44 states and several localities around the U.S. These model codes help make the largest consuming sectors of energy, i.e., homes and buildings, more efficient while allowing key stakeholders like builders, code officials, manufacturers, and even the general public, to participate in the code-development process. This will ensure that the process remains consensus-based and transparent so that the model codes can be user-friendly for each specific state's climatological needs. These provisions contain no federal budget costs or mandates.

We have consistently supported the energy codes provision contained in the efficiency title of the "Portman-Shaheen" legislation (Section 1001 of S. 2012). This title has regularly been approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on a broad bipartisan basis. The consistent, long-term bipartisan support that this title has enjoyed is in large part due to the diligent path it took in its development and that a diverse group of stakeholders helped collaboratively and transparently provide input on key provisions.

We appreciate that both Republican and Democratic-led Congresses have repeatedly enacted legislation that has continually highlighted the role that energy codes play as part of national energy policy and now as part of an "all the above" comprehensive energy policy. As the housing economy and building and construction sectors continue to rebound, we believe many homebuyers desire more efficient homes and greatly value permanent energy efficient features built into the home at the outset, as directed by codes. The annual rate of new home sales topped 654,000 sales in July, the highest in nine years, with increases likely.

We believe Congress has an important role to play in assisting states to consider the adoption and utilization of building codes that boost energy security, help generate significant cost-savings to consumers over the life of a building, and help stabilize energy demand. We respectfully request that as negotiations continue on comprehensive energy legislation, a continued balanced and moderate position on federal energy codes should be struck that considers the impact on all stakeholders.

Thank you again for your leadership, and for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council

American Architectural Manufacturers Association

Center for the Polyurethanes Industry

Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association

Insulation Contractors Association of America

Michigan Chemical Industry Council

National Association of Manufacturers

North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council

Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council

Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association

Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association

Spray Foam Coalition

Texas Chemistry Industry Council

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Vinyl Institute

West Virginia Manufacturers Association