



March 11, 2010

The Honorable Bob McDonnell
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Via Fax (804) 371-6351

Re: Complying with ARRA requirements relating to energy codes

Dear Governor McDonnell:

The members of the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) and the Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association (VPMIA) congratulate you on your election. VBCOA and VPMIA are statewide organizations of code enforcement professionals dedicated to the protection of the health, safety and welfare of all persons in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to advance safety in building construction across the Commonwealth, VBCOA and VPMIA promote the understanding and uniform interpretation and enforcement of regulations relating to structural adequacy and fire protection of buildings and the safety and health of the occupants. This includes compliance with the provisions of Virginia's Energy Conservation Code, which has long been part of the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Nationwide, comfort conditioning of buildings consumes over forty percent of our energy resources. This makes the application, understanding and enforcement of the energy conservation code an important component in Virginia's strategy for conservation. As part of the conditions for receipt of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) energy conservation funds by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, the Commonwealth is responsible for the adoption of new energy codes. Effective compliance with ninety percent of the code provisions must be documented by random audits. These new forthcoming changes are complex and local jurisdictions will have the added responsibility of enforcing these codes as well as educating contractors to assist them in achieving compliance with these new provisions.

VBCOA and VPMIA request the favor of a meeting with Secretary of Commerce and Trade Jim Cheng and members of your policy staff to discuss the state's plans,

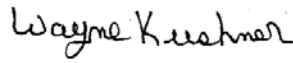
particularly as those relate to training and staffing for local building departments. The local building inspection departments will play a substantial role in achieving compliance with the conditions mandated by acceptance of the federal grant as prescribed in the ARRA.

Our organizations have a long history of working together with various state agencies to achieve common goals that are in the best interest of our citizenry. We look forward to working with you and your Administration to meet the goals embodied in the ARRA in a manner that will be of most benefit to our citizens.

Sincerely,



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CC: The Honorable Jim Cheng
Eric Finkbeiner, Senior Advisor for Policy