

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Todd Haymore
Secretary of Commerce and Trade
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Secretary Haymore:

I am writing to you today asking for your help with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code rewrite process. Since the Board of Housing deferred this code change to the Final Regulations phase of the process in October, the Fire Services Board Code Committee, along with building officials from around the state, have been working diligently to create a far better proposal. In the months since the Board took that action, Virginia's fire service organizations have provided a more detailed and meticulous review of the proposal and continue to work toward a complete proposal which meets the objective of removing construction provisions of the fire code, and provides a reasonable tool for protecting the lives, livelihood, and property of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The process thus far has been consumed by many hours of meetings and individual work by members of the Fire Services Board Code Committee and others. In these meetings, experts in the application of the code have reviewed and recommended changes to the existing fire prevention regulations in a very deliberate and purposeful process. It is our serious hope this process can be continued in order to get the best possible regulation. It is our fear that the task of working through the entire body of the existing code cannot be reasonably accomplished in the given timeframe between now and the October Board of Housing meeting where that body would approve the Final Regulations.

In the interest of continuing the productive collaboration which has taken place over the past eight months, we ask for your support in moving this rewrite process into the next code development process which will occur between 2018 and 2020. This more reasonable timeframe will provide the best chance for preventing any unintended consequences. We hope you can support the delay in adoption of this considerable change in the interest of public safety.

Sincerely,

c: Paul Regan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
The Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security