



July 15, 2011

Mr. Roland Risser
Program Manager, Building Technologies
US Department of Energy
DOE Routing, EE-2J
Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Dear Roland,

DOE's decision to finance free downloads and hard copies of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE 90.1 2007 has provided a needed spark to jurisdictions seeking to meet their Recovery Act obligations. But, as evidenced by the overwhelming response to the Department's offer, they have also provided crucial relief to building departments. Because building energy code enforcement budgets are often heavily reliant on permit fees from new building construction, the historic downturn in building construction starts has taken a severe toll on building officials. In addition to diminishing building official ranks through layoffs, funding shortages are adversely affecting every facet of their important responsibilities. **We understand that you are considering financing similar downloads and paper copies of the updates of those model energy codes and standards for residential and commercial buildings and are writing to support that decision.**

The 2012 IECC is nothing short of historic. Thanks to the efforts of DOE and energy efficiency allies, homes constructed to the 2012 IECC residential chapter will achieve 30% greater energy efficiency than homes meeting the 2006 IECC. As a side note, new equipment standards announced by the Department of Energy on June 10, 2011 will add to those gains.

For commercial buildings, ASHRAE 90.1 2010 achieves similar 30% gains over its 2004 predecessor standard.

To advance building efficiency nationwide, it is critical that America's code officials have access to these codes. Because of the vital role code officials will play in realizing these landmark efficiency gains, continuing your commitment to making these codes available to them may be one of the most cost-effective energy policy measures the Department can undertake.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
American Institute of Architects
Building Energy Efficient Codes Network
Energy Efficient Codes Coalition
Energy Future Coalition
Institute for Market Transformation
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
National Association of State Energy Officials
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Cc: Kathleen B. Hogan