



**Comments of Darren Port, Building Energy Codes Manager
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)
To the New Hampshire, House of Representatives,
Municipal and County Government Committee
January 29, 2015**

James Belanger, Chairman and House Committee Members:

On behalf of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)¹, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on House Bill 288. NEEP was founded in 1996 as a non-profit whose mission is to serve the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic to accelerate energy efficiency in the building sector through public policy, program strategies and education. Our vision is that the region will fully embrace energy efficiency as a cornerstone of sustainable energy policy to help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system.

NEEP's Building Energy Codes Project helps to increase building energy efficiency in the region by providing technical assistance, training and resources to support energy code development, implementation, and compliance. We have provided assistance to New Hampshire's building energy code efforts for several years and are an active member of New Hampshire's Energy Code Compliance Collaborative.

Support for Continued Statewide Enforcement of Building Energy Codes

Since April 2010 New Hampshire has been implementing and enforcing the 2009 IECC. The continued implementation of the 2009 IECC in New Hampshire will help ensure that every buyer of a new home gets a reasonably efficient home. A building constructed to the 2009 IECC saves energy, improves comfort, and provides substantial health and air quality benefits compared to New Hampshire's previous code or no code.

Positive Economic Impact

The positive impacts of energy code compliance has already been successfully applied in over fourteen thousand new residential (1-5 unit construction as per US census data) and many additional commercial construction projects throughout the state. The first year savings of the 2009 IECC to home owners and others living in new code compliant residences is \$146; since the implementation of the 2006 IECC in 2010 over \$2 million dollars has been saved by New Hampshire ratepayers. Over a 30 year life cycle those fourteen thousand residences will save an estimated \$43.5 million dollars; based on Department

¹ [NEEP](http://www.neep.org) is a regional non-profit organization founded in 1996 whose mission is to promote the efficient use of energy in homes, buildings, and industry throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic through regionally coordinated programs and policies that increase the use of energy efficient products, services and practices, and help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system. The comments are presented by NEEP staff and don't necessarily reflect the views of NEEP's Board, sponsors or partners.



of Energy 30-Year Life-Cycle Savings. These are dollars that stay within the state and support local communities. Future adoption of the latest 2015 IECC would yield even greater savings.

Job Preservation and Creation

The State's builders, design professionals, and code officials are trained and experienced with the details of the code. The continued implementation of the code preserves jobs and continually creates new ones, as advanced energy saving methodologies and technologies are incorporated into code compliant homes. A uniform statewide code and consistent code enforcement attracts larger retailers, design firms, and contractors deepening investment in the state.

New Hampshire's citizens stand to benefit from the continued enforcement of the energy codes in many ways:

- The IECC is the final product of a well-developed, long-standing model code development process that involves the nation's leading experts in energy efficiency, building design and product performance professionals, state and local governmental officials, product manufacturers, architects, and builders.
- By the continued enforcement of the 2009 IECC, the State of New Hampshire will stay on track with its energy efficiency goals and provide benefits to its building and home owners and tenants for many years. New construction is the most cost-effective time to install better insulation, quality windows and doors, and efficient heating and cooling equipment that is properly sized. The increase in construction costs should be reduced over time through economies of scale, as suppliers and retailers reduce inventories and streamline production to meet these new energy targets.
- Continued adherence to the 2009 IECC reduces the need for utilities to construct additional generation and transmission capacity improvements to meet increases in electrical demand.

Buyers Want Energy Efficiency

The National Association of Home Builders conducted a study (2013) entitled, [What Home Buyers Really Want](#), a study which outlines home buyers' preferences. Energy efficiency was the top most wanted feature, "...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."

American Recovery and Investment Act

Enactment of HB 288 would be contrary to obligations made by the State of New Hampshire to meet the minimum national efficiency goals of the American Recovery and Investment Act (ARRA). ARRA provided several million dollars in federal funding to help the state, its buildings, and its cities and towns become more energy efficient. Section 410(a) of ARRA requires a state, as a condition for receiving this federal funding, to adopt the 2009 IECC for residential dwellings and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 for non-commercial buildings. Since Section 410(a) also requires the state to develop a plan to achieve 90 percent compliance



with these energy codes by 2017, **HB 288** would diminish the compliance goals set forth by ARRA and potentially jeopardize new federal funding to the state.

In conclusion, NEEP is opposed to HB 288, and we offer our assistance and experience in energy code adoption and implementation to you and the State of New Hampshire as you continue to work toward maximizing building energy efficiency. We hope that you will not hesitate to draw on NEEP's technical assistance and willingness to help. Please contact me at 781-860-9177 x132, if you have any questions or would like to discuss how NEEP can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Darren Port

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