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Members of the Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission,

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Indiana encourages you to support the development of Code Committees to begin the process of updating Indiana's Building, Mechanical, Plumbing and Fire Prevention Codes. ACEC Indiana represents over 100 consulting engineering firms in the state of Indiana, which include over 4,500 employees statewide. Up-to-date building codes are essential for ensuring public safety, health, and welfare, as well as environmental protection.

WHY SHOULD THE INDIANA CODES BE UPDATED?

- National model codes are constantly being updated and improved to take advantages of the latest research and technology. Indiana's codes have become significantly out of date. With the imminent publication of the 2021 series of International Code Council (ICC) model codes, the Indiana Plumbing Code (based on the 2006 IPC) will soon be 15 years out of date. Similarly, the Indiana Building Code, Mechanical Code and Fire Code (all based on the 2012 ICC model code versions) will soon be 9 years out of date.
- Because the ICC family of codes are inter-related and cross-referenced, adopting codes with the same year of issuance is critical to avoiding inconsistencies in code provisions and making the design and construction process more efficient and coordinated.
- Updating the Indiana Codes will provide a safer environment for the public.
- Updating the Indiana Codes will keep us in step with the most recent model codes.

WHO BENEFITS FROM UPDATED CODES?

- Building occupants will have greater assurance that buildings are designed and constructed to take advantage of the most recent advances in building construction and technology.
- By updating the Indiana Codes, we are ensuring the latest safety innovations coming into our industry will be applied to the buildings being designed, and therefore keep public safety as the #1 priority.
- Keeping Indiana on the leading edge of building construction standards will demonstrate to our citizens and businesses Indiana's commitment to safety and technological advancement. The long term benefits far outweigh any potential increase in the upfront costs associated with adoption of current codes, bringing projects in line with contemporary industry practices.

Many of Indiana's building and construction codes are significantly outdated relative to our neighboring states and the rest of the country. We must work to ensure these codes are kept current and reflect the advances we are making in the design and construction industry. Doing so will allow new facilities to be built better and smarter, while limiting the costs and time to facility owners spent on acquiring variances to outdated codes. In short, up-to-date building codes make Indiana a better place to live for all Hoosiers and others considering relocating their business to Indiana.

We encourage you to support the development of Code Committees to begin the process of updating the Indiana Codes and welcome any questions you may have.