

**From:** [David](#)  
**To:** [Boyle, Douglas J \(DHS\)](#); [jheinsman@lhb-eng.com](mailto:jheinsman@lhb-eng.com); [Michael.popich@indy.gov](mailto:Michael.popich@indy.gov); [bprochnow@wrtfd.org](mailto:bprochnow@wrtfd.org); [lmadden@hallmarkhomes.com](mailto:lmadden@hallmarkhomes.com); [bkaufholz@fischerhomes.com](mailto:bkaufholz@fischerhomes.com)  
**Cc:** [Phil.gettum@gettum.com](mailto:Phil.gettum@gettum.com); [mark@demerlyarchitects.com](mailto:mark@demerlyarchitects.com); [grefgurnish@yahoo.com](mailto:grefgurnish@yahoo.com); [Randy.gulley@waynetwp.org](mailto:Randy.gulley@waynetwp.org); [hankkidwell@gmail.com](mailto:hankkidwell@gmail.com); [wcbuilding@whitleygov.com](mailto:wcbuilding@whitleygov.com)  
**Subject:** IN - Please Recommend Full Adoption of 2018 IRC  
**Date:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 10:01:50 AM

---

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

Dear Indiana Residential Code Committee Members,

My name is David Bowers, I'm 50 years old and live at 4456 East State Road 234 in the town of Ladoga, Indiana. I'm writing to you as a husband, father of two children and grandfather of one concerned about the future of home building in Indiana as it relates to house fires. I want to respectfully request that you recommend full adoption of the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC). That will ensure all newly built one and two family homes are bestprotected against electrical fires and other hazards. I also want to request that you keep arc fault circuit interrupter requirements in the code so they can specifically help prevent electrical fires from happening throughout the home.

My request comes from the heart, because I am a burn survivor myself and know many across this state who have survived house fires. While my situation did not involve an electrical house fire, I suffered burn injuries similar to those that house fire victims have survived. I know what they have gone through and I join them in being supportive of anything that can help prevent tragic electrical fires from occurring. That is why you need to support bringing Indiana up to code by recommending the 2018 IRC.

Back in 1999, I was burned over 94% of my body during a work-related oxygen flash fire. I spent four months in a burn unit and several more months in rehab. I had many painful surgeries and treatments.

I know all of you mean well on your committee and likely look at costs related to building code issues. That's why I want you to consider this, anyone suffering burn injuries in an electrical house fire, or for that matter any house fire, will suffer immeasurable costs. The cost of the medical surgeries and therapies alone is astronomical. But remember, the human cost. The loss suffered by the loved one and their family, the loss of work, the emotional loss, the loss of time spent in hospitals and rehab trying to recover. All of this adds up to a lifetime of cost.

If there is a way to prevent electrical fires before they start – like AFCIs are required to do in new home building – then why wouldn't we have that most updated requirement in place in Indiana? These devices work and are already preventing electrical fires in other states though their adopted requirements. Now is the time for Indiana to join in compliance with national building/electrical codes followed in other states and recommend full adoption of the 2018 IRC.

We should not be gambling with the lives of the young and old by weakening these national electrical/building code requirements. What if we were talking about the safety of your son or daughter, or family member in a home where dangerous arcing were occurring in damaged wiring behind the walls? Wouldn't you want to rest easier knowing there was a fire prevention device already installed by requirement that would detect and prevent an electrical fire from occurring? How important is their life and the lives of others.

Please, as a burn survivor, resident of Indiana, husband, father of two and grandfather of one, I urge you to do the right thing. Protect Indiana's future homeowners and other residents who will purchase these homes in the decades to come. Please recommend full adoption of the 2018 IRC to ensure new homes are being built to the highest standards in Indiana.

Thank you,  
David Bowers  
4456 East State Road 234  
Ladoga, Indiana 47954  
[bowersdc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bowersdc@sbcglobal.net)

Sent from my iPad