From: rich.christine.ward@gmail.com
To: Boyle, Douglas J (DHS)
Subject: Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission, % Douglas J. Boyle, Commission Director
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:42:24 AM

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Subject: Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission, % Douglas J. Boyle, Commission Director
To: <doboyle@dhs.in.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to you today as a concerned citizen, as well as someone who has worked with Dot Kesling, founder of the LOK Wishing Tree Foundation, for the past 7+ years. She lost her daughter Lindsey at the young age of 22 to accidental carbon monoxide poisoning, a preventable death. We would like for Indiana to join the many states who include requirements for CO alarms in our residential code to help guard against preventable deaths like Lindsey's.

As you know the IRC (International Residential Code) has been thoroughly reviewed and is now up for final discussion and vote before you after formally being introduced at your February 5, 2019 meeting. This will start the (arduous and complex) process of this becoming law.

Indiana now has the opportunity to do what Governor Holcomb has previously professed to want:

Holcomb explained the refusals (to pass local CO ordinances) are not borne out of an animus toward carbon monoxide detectors, but rather a desire to avoid different standards and policies in communities across the state.

"We're trying to get away from this hodge-podge approach and have a more formalized template," Holcomb said.

Excerpted from a Northwest Indiana Times article by Dan Carden, Dec. 17, 2017

Further, what the IAA and IBA also profess to support:

The Indiana Apartment Association and the Indiana Builders Association opposed the ordinance. Representatives from both organizations said their objections were not because they opposed carbon monoxide alarms, but that they wanted regulations to be consistent across the state.

Excerpted from an Indy Star article by Kaitlin Lange, May 4, 2017

The majority of states have already chosen to adopt the 2018 IRC whole and intact, inclusive of carbon monoxide protection, provides consistent regulations across the state. Indiana has been working with an archaic building code, (you can't even access a hard copy of the current version.) Indiana has had three previous opportunities to adopt IRC language that would have included CO protection, yet instead chose to omit that language.

There have been numerous attempts by senators, representatives and organizations to keep carbon monoxide in the language. There are no more arguments for delaying adoption of IRC whole and intact to help Indiana avoid preventable deaths caused by lack of carbon monoxide alarms.

We as citizens rely on you, our decision makers and elected officials, to protect us. Please honor that trust by following through on what has been promised to the people of Indiana.

Thank you.

Christine Ward, LaPorte, Indiana