My name is John Reese, CEO of Reese Central Wholesale, the leading supplier of roofing materials to builders and contractors in Indiana for over 70 years.

I have worked in the industry for over 50 years and I have personally trained thousands of roofing contractors and builders on ways to safely and correctly install roofing, siding and flashings for new and existing homes. Preventing water from infiltrating and damaging our homes is my specialty, and I have presented seminars for the roofing industry in Las Vegas, Dallas, and of course Indiana.

Jamie Lancia (Lancia Homes - Fort Wayne), Luke Hoffman (Granite Ridge Builders - Fort Wayne) and Jeff Langston (Old Town Design Group - Carmel) are a few of the builders I have worked with recently, as well as many roofing contractors across Indiana. I have also enjoyed a long working friendship with Greg Furnish.

I am writing to offer my opinion regarding the completion of table R301.2(1) of the recently updated Indiana Building Code.

As I'm sure you know, there are currently 27 counties who list yes in the column requiring Ice Shield Underlayment. These counties are, for the most part, the counties who were mandated to check yes because their average January temperature was under 25 degrees, which was one of the original criteria. That criteria has been removed.

Over the years, many builders and contractors have complained to me that some of the requirements for ice barriers were confusing and illogical. And I agree. The text highlighted below is confusing, poorly written and unnecessary. Even the attempt to partially exempt the 24" rule for slopes greater than 8/12 is poorly written. By saying "shall also" it exempts nothing. Hopefully in the next revision the roofing industry and code writers will update the code to reflect the materials and methods of the 21st century. In the meantime the "24" rule could be selectively enforced.

Having said that, the question asked is not "Do we like the way the code is written?" but rather "Has there been a history of ice forming along the eaves causing a backup of water?".

The answer to that question for all Indiana counties is an unqualified yes.

I have seen hundreds of walls destroyed by water infiltration caused by ice dams and wind-blown rain along the eaves of the roofs. Most of the damage would have been prevented by combining a self-adhered membrane with drip cap along the eave of the roof. I have attached a few pictures of Indiana ice dams and the damage caused.

The new code requires drip edge along the eaves of all roofs, but drip edge will only be effective in ice dam and wind-blown rain situations if it is used in conjunction with one roll of self-adhered flashing membrane (in this case an "Ice Shield Underlayment") adhered to the drip cap and run along the entire eave of the roof.

It would be very confusing if "Ice Shield Underlayment" is required only in selected counties and municipalities.

Insurance companies will not pay to install Ice Shield Underlayment unless it is already present or if it is required by code. The insurance companies should be ashamed, but this could easily be remedied by making the Ice Shield requirement the code for the entire state.

Most competent contractors install Ice Shield Underlayment at their own expense, putting them at a competitive disadvantage when "storm chasers" cut corners following a hail storm in Indiana.

Indiana homeowners would greatly benefit from state-wide consistency.

I respectfully request that you include all counties as a "YES" in table R301.2(1)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Reese
CEO
Reese Wholesale
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R905.1.2 Ice barriers.
In areas where there has been a history of ice forming along the eaves causing a backup of water as designated in Table R301.2(1), an ice barrier shall be installed for asphalt shingles, metal roof shingles, mineral-surfaced roll roofing, slate and slate-type shingles, wood shingles and wood shakes. The ice barrier shall consist of not fewer than two layers of *underlayment* cemented together, or a self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen shall be used in place of normal *underlayment* and ***extend from the lowest edges of all roof surfaces to a point not less than 24 inches 610 mm) inside the exterior wall line of the building. On roofs with slopes equal to or greater than eight units vertical in 12 units horizontal (67-percent slope), the ice barrier shall also be applied not less than 36 inches (914 mm) measured along the roof slope from the eave of the building.***