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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 an Electrical Code Committee to begin the process of updating Indiana's Electrical Code. 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 ELECTRICAL CODE BE UPDATED?**

- The world never stops changing and it is important to keep learning how to keep it electrically safe. The National Electrical Code, published by the National Fire Protection Association, is updated every three years to provide the latest requirements for safer and more effective electrical design, installation and inspection. Indiana's Electrical Code was re-adopted in 2015, but substantively consists the 2009 code.
- To keep Indiana current and consistent with the many electrical technology changes that have occurred since 2009 such as Electric Vehicle charging stations, Photo Voltaic installation, and Direct Current battery systems that have limited mention in the 2009 Code, but have an impact on the safety of electrical systems. Updated codes will validate best practices in prudent facility design.
- Updating the Indiana Electrical Code will provide a safer environment for the public.
- Updating the Indiana Electrical Code will keep us in step with the most recent model Building Codes and Energy Code.

### **WHO BENEFITS FROM AN UPDATED ELECTRICAL CODE?**

- Building occupants who encounter electrical systems will have greater assurance that the electrical systems are designed and installed to a safe level.
- All employees/contractors who work on electrical projects benefit from the updated electrical code by improving their knowledge and skills to design better electrical systems that result in reducing accidents and minimizing fire hazards from the use of electricity.
- The public. By updating the Indiana Electrical Code, 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.
- Ultimately, the changes are about making the electrical installation safer and, in this way, benefit us all. The long term benefits far outweigh any potential increase in the upfront costs associated with adoption of current electrical codes, bringing projects in line with contemporary industry practices.

Many of Indiana's building and construction codes are 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 an Electrical Code Committee to begin the process of updating the Indiana Electrical Code and welcome any questions you may have.