



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

P.O. Box 500848 • Richardson, Texas 75083-0848

972.235.1455 • fax 972.671.7139 • email: dclements@iaei.org • web site www.iaei.org

September 20, 2011

Honorable Hugh Crawford
Regulatory Reform Committee
hughcrawford@house.mi.gov

Dear Mr. Crawford

The International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) hereby opposes proposed legislation from House Bill 4561 and its substitute.

The International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) is an association of electrical inspectors and associate members representing the full spectrum of the electrical industry for the purpose of promoting the safe use of electricity. One of the goals of IAEI is to present the profession's viewpoint, concerns, and other important information to legislators, administrators, regulators, and other bodies.

There has been much misinformation advanced requesting to extend the adoption period of the National Electrical Code (NEC) from three to six years.

IAEI is very concerned that not adopting the NEC in a timely manner will result in lessening electrical safety and increase the fire and shock hazards from the use of electricity in the built environment that the timely adoption of the NEC affords.

IAEI participates in the consensus process with two electrical inspector members representing the organization on each code-making panel that processes the Code requirements as submitted from the public in each new edition of the NEC. As such, we support and encourage the adoption of the complete document in a timely manner. The consensus code-making process addresses many of the safety requirements that are needed to stay current with new technologies such as electric vehicle supply equipment, photovoltaic and wind turbine installations.

Safety requirements for installations have been substantiated by proposers, debated by the code-making panels, received public scrutiny and comments, and adopted in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) process which is American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited.

IAEI is also a member of the National Code Coalition. This Code Coalition is a group of electrical industry representatives that has as one of its goals the direct adoption of

David Clements
Secretary
International Board

DELLA C. FICHERS
Executive Director

Chuck Melto
President
Northwestern Section

Staci Benton
1st Vice President
Southern Section

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2nd Vice President
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Doray Chok

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION
Lenny McMahill
Randy Humes

WESTERN SECTION
David Williams
Mike Bonner

the current NEC. The Coalition is a very strong advocate of electrical safety and its member organizations also serve on various code-making panels.

Unfortunately, extending the code adoption process will compromise electrical safety and the advancement of emerging technologies.

Don't let so-called cost effectiveness be the determining factor in the "practical safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity."

In addition, slowing the process of adoption of current safety codes is a roadblock for the advancement and installation of green energy technology.

Thank you for your dedication in providing a safe electrical environment in your jurisdiction and promoting the advancement of renewable energy technology.

Sincerely,



David E. Clements
CEO and Executive Director

Encl: Proclamation

C: Chuck Mello
David Williams
File

The Importance of Adopting the Latest Edition Of the National Electrical Code®

The undersigned members of the Electrical Code Coalition support direct adoption of the latest edition of the *National Electrical Code*. Direct adoption means that it is not adopted through a building code or other standard, but is directly adopted through direct legislative or administrative action. Direct action ensures that the requirements are not dependent on a code that is unrelated or only peripherally related.

The latest edition represents the latest technological advances. The NEC is revised every three years. Each edition goes through an extensive public vetting process to ensure that it meets technical and societal needs for minimum electrical safety.

Building inspection departments are evaluated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) based on use of up-to-date Codes and Standards. Adoption of the latest edition of the NEC can result in lower insurance premiums for property owners in a jurisdiction.

The National Electrical Code is responsive. The Code is revised every three years to ensure that the requirements take into account the latest in technology and safety. This ANSI-based consensus process includes expertise from installers, inspectors, electric utilities, testing laboratories, manufacturers and others.

Industry training programs and industry magazines and other resources support the current edition. When the new edition is released, all of the industry resources switch their focus to the new edition. All of the trade magazines and industry web sites want to provide up-to-date information.

Electricians and electrical inspectors trained and working to the current edition have increased opportunities. Uniform adoption of the latest edition NEC across jurisdictions will help open up opportunities for electricians, contractors, and inspectors to work in various jurisdictions since they will all have been trained to the same technologically current, safety oriented code.

The Electrical Code Coalition: An Industry Coalition Supporting Qualified Electrical Inspectors



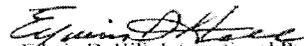
Thomas R. Kuhn, President
Edison Electric Institute



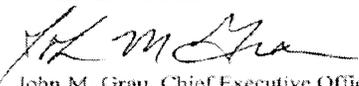
Larry Mullins, Executive Vice President and CEO
Independent Electrical Contractors



David E. Clements, CEO and Executive Director
International Association of Electrical Inspectors



Edwin D. Hill, International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers



John M. Grau, Chief Executive Officer
National Electrical Contractors Association



Evan R. Gaddis, President and CEO
National Electrical Manufacturer's Association



James M. Shannon, President and CEO
National Fire Protection Association®



Keith Williams, President and CEO
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.



Brett Brenner, President
Electrical Safety Foundation Intl. (ESFI)