

May 22, 2018

Re: House Bill 5376

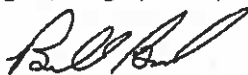
Representative Brandt Iden Committee Chair and other members of the State House Regulatory Reform Committee.

My name is Bill Benoit I currently work as a Building Inspector and Plan Examiner for the Charter Township of Cascade in Kent County. I have worked in code enforcement for almost 30 years, have participated in code development on the national level and have served on many Michigan code development committees and currently serve as the Chair of the State Construction Code Commission although I am representing myself on this matter.

The reason I support this bill is because I have participated in the process of Michigan code development and I know how much work goes into the process. The idea that two people will have the time necessary to review the codes is just not possible. In the past when the Department used committees each member of the committee was assigned chapters of the code to review and report back to the committee as a whole to discuss the impact of those changes and the chapters they were assigned was based on their particular area of expertise. One of my other concerns has to do with transparency in the past all meetings were open to the public to hear the discussion with the Departments new process these discussions will take place on the phone or in a closed room that certainly is no way for our government to operate.

One good example of this amount of work being done by only a few people is the current edition of the 2015 Michigan Residential Code. Originally a committee was formed to review the 2012 edition of the International Residential Code for adoption in Michigan but just as the committee was finishing its work the Director of LARA wanted the 2015 edition to be reviewed. Instead of asking the committee to review the document it was done by Bureau of Construction Code staff and the committee was only permitted one short one-hour meeting to review what was done by staff. Once the document was adopted and published many mistakes and conflicts have been discovered causing confusion and uncoordinated enforcement by building departments in throughout the State.

Again, I urge you to please support HB5376



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