Insulation Industry Supports Jobs and Energy Efficiency Policies for New Jersey

December 15, 2017

Dear Governor-Elect Murphy,

Congratulations on your successful campaign for Governor of New Jersey. The undersigned organizations represent manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, and installers of building insulation. Our products are installed in homes and buildings saving New Jersey consumers and businesses money on utility bills, lowering the environmental impact of buildings, and creating well-paying jobs in the manufacturing and construction sectors. In fact, the insulation industry is part of an energy efficient economy that delivers more than 31,500 jobs to the state.[1]

We write to encourage your Administration to maintain building energy codes as a key component of New Jersey's energy and environmental policies. Nationwide, commercial and residential buildings account for 40% of total energy use[2] and 75% of total electricity use.[3] Building energy codes require new buildings and substantial retrofits to comply with minimum energy efficiency requirements. Model building codes are developed via a consensus-based process that allows equal stakeholder participation. The development process occurs on a three-year cycle to ensure that code provisions reflect the current industry knowledge and technology. All changes to the model building codes are voted on by governmental representatives from local, state, and federal jurisdictions. Ultimately, individual states decide how and when to update their building codes, and whether to make any modifications to the model code requirements.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that building energy codes represent $126 billion in energy cost savings from 2010 to 2040. In terms of avoided emissions, building energy codes can save the equivalent of emissions from 245 coal power plants over the same time period.[4] However, building energy codes do much more than just save energy. Mortgage default risks are 32% lower in energy-efficient homes.[5] And two recent Harvard studies demonstrate that working in high-performing buildings can improve decision-making in the workplace.[6]

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[1] *2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report*, U.S. Department of Energy: https://energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report.

[2] https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=86&t=1

[3] https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=electricity_use

[4] U.S. Department of Energy: https://www.energycodes.gov/about/results

[5] Robert Sahadi et al, *Home Energy Efficiency and Mortgage Risks*, UNC Center for Community Capital and Institute for Market Transformation, March 2013.

[6] Joseph G. Allen et al., "Associations of Cognitive Function Scores with Carbon Dioxide, Ventilation, and Volatile Organic Compound Exposures in Office Workers: A Controlled Exposure Study of Green and Conventional Office

Importantly, recent natural disasters have reminded us that we must build today with the challenges of tomorrow in mind. Energy efficiency is an integral component of resiliency and energy codes can ensure that our built environment is comprised of structures that function after the storms pass.

We stand ready to support your efforts to strengthen New Jersey's building energy efficiency policies. Please use our organizations as a resource for your transition team.

Sincerely,

EPS Industry Alliance
Insulation Contractors Association of America
National Insulation Association
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

Environments," Environmental Health Perspectives, Volume 124 (2016), pages 805-812. https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/15-10037/. Piers MacNaughton et al., "The impact of working in a green certified building on cognitive function and health," Building and the Environment, Volume 114 (2017), pages 178-186. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360132316304723