To NFRC's valued members and participants,

Within the next month, NFRC will release its 2017 annual report, highlighting the work it accomplished in 2017. Through perseverance, NFRC reached more consumers, more manufacturers certified their products, and more organizations joined NFRC as members.

And many of our accomplishments in 2017 set the foundation for the work to be done in 2018 -- some to be completed this year, others taking us into 2019 and beyond.

In 2017, NFRC staff continued to research and plan for programs like the FenStar™ Certification Program in pursuit of ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation, the Residential Component-Based Calculation (RCBC), the commercial program, and others.

Perhaps the biggest example of a 2017 effort that will pave the way for continued success in 2018 can be demonstrated by the kaizen event that NFRC hosted in June 2017 at the request of the NFRC 700 Certification Process Streamline Task Group. In one very full week, a group of NFRC staff and members examined every step in the NFRC product certification process, looking for redundancies and unnecessary steps. The exercise resulted in ideas to improve the program as well as completely new initiatives. The core ideas were presented to NFRC membership in September 2017 at the Fall Membership Meeting in San Diego. The overall benefit to our program participants? A more robust certification process that is easier to navigate. In 2018, NFRC staff and volunteers will continue to evaluate:

- Annual Energy Performance
- Simulate only 3mm Glass and Remove Grids
- Validation Simplification
- Redefining Certification
- Harmonized Certification Cycles
- Simplify Label
- Process and Document Database
- Streamlined License Agreements
- Targeted Communication

While some of these projects have already been completed, others remain priorities, and others will come to fruition over time.

The staff goal for NFRC is to move deliberately. To be good stewards of NFRC's resources, it is essential that all tasks be undertaken with full forethought, intention, and an eye toward results. With a clear understanding of all aspects of a project – cost, time, benefits, etc. – missteps can be avoided and solid outcomes are assured.

But here's the thing: many of these projects can be completed faster with more active volunteers. The more voices and action we have contributing throughout projects, the less work will be needed at the end of each. The speed of completion is directly influenced by the commitment of the volunteers tasked with the job.
In 2018, the invitation is open for ALL members and participants to share their voices and expertise. Throughout the year, as programs and projects move forward, NFRC staff will be sending out requests for participation and assistance. I encourage you to donate your time and expertise for the benefit of all.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of NFRC, I hope the best for each of you in 2018.

Sincerely,

Deb Callahan, CAE
Chief Executive Officer