

November 14, 2018

The Honorable William B. Long
Administrator FEMA
500 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC
20472

Dear Administrator Long:

The undersigned organizations and businesses support FEMA's effective implementation of Section 1234 and section 1235 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA). These important provisions encourage the adoption and enforcement of "the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards" in addition to allowing FEMA to rebuild back stronger to protect communities from future natural disasters.

Strengthening the built environment is vital to shielding the public when an extreme weather event occurs. Unfortunately, most states have not adopted the most recent standards and codes that are based on the latest research and technological innovation. As a result, their communities will continue to remain vulnerable to extreme weather events. Sections 1234 and 1235 aid state, local, Indian tribal, and territorial governments in adopting and enforcing the latest codes in addition to allowing their communities to build back stronger. This will help prevent future destruction and improve the resilience of the built environment. These provisions are consistent with statements you made on October 12, that when areas are rebuilt, they are done so "in a resilient fashion [and] that we don't rebuild to the same [old] standards." We echo these remarks and want to support you in effectively implementing these important provisions.

Building codes and standards make our communities more sustainable, more efficient and more resilient. For this reason, it is crucial that voluntary consensus-based standards are thoroughly reviewed and serve as the foundation for DRRA's implementation as it is cited in the law. As you begin your review of codes and standards to build a safer America, we ask you to include building energy codes, which are also important for building resilience and performance. We also encourage you to work with the U.S. Department of Energy in this review of building energy codes, as DOE's Building Technologies Office has expertise in this subject.

In addition to the Department of Energy, the undersigned organizations would also like to serve as a resource to FEMA. To follow-up, please feel free to contact ASHRAE's government affairs staff at GovAffairs@ashrae.org. We look forward to helping FEMA strengthen communities and improve the resiliency of our nation.

Sincerely,
The American Institute of Architects (AIA)
ASHRAE
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)
Green Business Certification Inc.
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
Passive House Institute US (PHIUS)
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
U.S. Green Building Council

CC:

The Honorable Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy at the Department of Energy
Cathy Tripodi, Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)
David Nemptow, Building Technologies Office Director for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)