



AIA Indiana

November 24, 2020

Indiana Department of Homeland Security/Indiana Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission

Dear Indiana Department of Homeland Security Staff and Indiana Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission Members:

AIA Indiana strongly supports the Indiana Department of Homeland Security/Indiana Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission adopting a plan to keep all of Indiana's building related codes up to date on a consistent and fair basis. Designing and building resilient buildings is not a choice, it's an imperative. Building codes are essential to creating a high-performing, resilient built environment. AIA Indiana stands for the development, adoption, and enforcement of comprehensive and coordinated building codes that promote resilient and energy-efficient design and construction.

Most Indiana building codes are woefully and embarrassingly out of date. For example, the current electrical code is 12 years out of date, the current plumbing code is based on a 14-year-old model code that will be 20 years out of date at the end of its current cycle, and the current energy code is based on ASHRAE 90.1-2007 and is 13 years out of date.

Today we observe a rapidly changing world that is not properly reflected in our state's building codes. Unfortunately, at a time when building performance should be rapidly advancing, we have seen Indiana's building code adoption processes plateau and/or regress and not respond to change and technological developments. This negatively impacts basic protections for the health, safety, and welfare of Hoosiers.

AIA Indiana supports updating our outdated building codes in order to:

1. Create resilient structures to respond to natural and man-made events that impact buildings and communities.
2. Design buildings that promote physical and mental health and respectfully integrate an aging population by addressing mobility and cognitive challenges, promoting life activities, and reducing stress.
3. Reduce the negative impacts the environment can have on people and buildings (e.g. hazards).
4. Reduce the negative environmental impact of buildings throughout their life cycle.

Again, AIA Indiana strongly supports the Indiana Department of Homeland Security/Indiana Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission adopting a plan to keep all of Indiana's building related codes up to date on a consistent and fair basis. AIA Indiana members and staff are eager to assist in this process.

Sincerely,

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AIA Indiana Executive Director

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