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BOAF 2017 Legislative Position Statements

Support HB909

HB909 is a direct result of the work product of the Workforce Task Force created by the Florida Legislature by HB535 2016. The Bill offers a “win-win” solution to the current shortage of qualified professionals to perform plan review and inspection of new construction projects throughout the State. Principally, it creates an internship opportunity for Florida’s youth allowing them the opportunity to seek a career in a technical professional role in a local government building department. In return, local governments are afforded the opportunity to recruit and hire from a large pool of younger Floridians that aren’t currently eligible based upon current regulations. To read more about what the bill does please visit: http://boaf.net/?page=PR_HB909

Oppose SB7000/HB901

SB7000, as currently proposed, will slow the professional advancement of the Florida Building Code that regulates all construction in Florida and allow a special interest group from the construction industry to take control of building regulations in the State of Florida. The current International Codes which form the basis for the Florida code are developed through a time tested consensus process with widespread industry and regulatory participation. Thousands of experts throughout the world who are actively involved in manufacturing, construction, and regulation actively participate in the International Code development process. The companion House Bill 901 to SB7000 proposes to replace this process by lengthening the 3 year code update cycle to 5 years and creating a new 11 person Florida Building Commission, with the majority from special interests that will decide what is best for Florida. Currently, the Florida

Building Commission is composed of 27 members representing all stakeholders in the construction and related industries.

Special interests may be motivated only by short term profit at the long term expense of the citizens of the State of Florida. Current economic activity in the construction sector reflects that construction is booming in Florida under the current regulations and process, yet proponents of SB7000 claim their members should not be forced to comply with “unfair” new regulations that enter Florida from the International Codes. This seems to directly contradict the NAHB National Home Builders Association claims of an 80% success rate with code change proposals in the latest International Code development cycle. ISO/Verisk establishes the property hazard and flood hazard underwriting rates for insurance companies throughout much of the world. ISO/Verisk requires communities to adopt codes based upon the International Codes within 5 years of publication. Due to delays built into Florida law in the amendment and adoption process, freezing the Florida Code or extending the adoption cycle beyond current thresholds will preclude adoptions within 5 years of publication. Insurance industry representatives have already stated that SB7000, if enacted will result in higher insurance rates for Florida property owners.

In 2015 the State of Florida performed a comprehensive review of the Florida Building Code Development process which included input from design, industry, and regulatory stakeholders. The review determined that current process is working. The American Institute of Architects (Florida), the Florida Engineering Society, the Florida Structural Engineers Association, the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, Floridians for Safe Communities, the Building Officials Association of Florida, the Federal Alliance for Safe Home Construction, the Florida Floodplain Managers Association, the Florida Insurance Council, the American Insurance Association, and many others industry groups concerned with ensuring Florida utilizes the most advanced building safety requirements oppose SB7000/HB901 for the detrimental effects it will cause to Florida communities if enacted. See <https://buildstrongfl.com>