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June 16, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
State Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: HB 1021 Veto Request

Dear Governor Scott:

On behalf of the members of the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF), I respectfully request that you veto HB 1021. This bill will negatively impact the life safety benefits provided by the Florida Building Code.

As building code professionals that verify compliance with the Florida Building Code, we are responsible for ensuring that the built environment will be safe places for Floridians and visitors to live, work and play. The Florida Building Code is aligned with the national model building codes used across the nation, which keeps the citizens of Florida safe while providing benefit to design professionals, contractors and product manufacturers from all over the country.

The Florida Building Code is widely regarded as among the most effective set of building codes in the nation. This is because the code development process established by the Florida Legislature "got it right" when the decision was made to base Florida's code on the national model codes. These model codes are developed and updated through a consensus process and are the foundation documents which are modified to address Florida-specific conditions. Signing HB 1021 will abandon a process that has worked effectively since Hurricane Andrew. This weakened code will disconnect Florida's building professionals

from the ongoing updates of the national model codes and will lead to a stagnate, out-of-date set of regulations, harming the citizens of Florida by creating a less safe built environment.

In addition to the weakening of the Florida Building Code, there will be negative financial impacts to the citizens of Florida in the form of higher property insurance rates if the insurance industry determines that the Florida Building Code is less effective than the national model codes. Federal assistance funding for recovery following a disaster may also be negatively impacted by this legislation.

You should be aware that the initial draft of this legislation was proposed by a few special interest groups, without consultation with all stakeholders. During the recent legislative session, many modifications were negotiated to attempt to repair the flaws proposed in this legislative bill, but it remains problematic. We propose working with the Florida Building Commission and other stakeholder groups going forward to hold public workshops to preserve the integrity of the of the Florida Building Code and development process. We believe that there is ample time for the stakeholders to come together and work this out during the 2018 legislative session, rather than starting down a path that may lead to detrimental effects for the citizens of Florida.

Thank you for considering this request to Veto HB 1021. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



Doug Wise, CBO, CFM, MCP

President

Building Officials Association of Florida