



# WARNING: Weaker Florida Building Codes Hurt Floridians

**The only things protecting Florida families and businesses from a natural disaster are the building codes and standards homes and businesses are built to.**

**Oppose any effort** that would create the same conditions that led to the devastation and building failures of Hurricane Andrew and could lead to:

- ✗ Weakening Florida's building codes to less than the national standard in a hurricane-prone state.
- ✗ Imposing a hidden tax that shifts costs and risk from builders to Florida businesses and homeowners.
- ✗ Undermining the confidence of Florida as a state that delivers premier life safety and property protection.
- ✗ Increasing risk to Floridians living in coastal communities and hazard areas, resulting in increasing cost of reconstruction from damage caused by natural disasters.
- ✗ Affecting flood insurance rates, homeowners' insurance rates and disaster relief dollars due to the dollars spent on losses rising because of weakened mitigation standards.
- ✗ Removing experts from the Florida Building Commission, turning away from a transparent and independent model code system.
- ✗ Reducing standard of care and conduit for new technologies used within the industry.

*"Florida must continue to apply strong and current building codes for the environment we live in, which is the most likely state in the nation to be hit by a hurricane. Taking Florida back to pre-Hurricane Andrew status, when there was piecemeal regulation that didn't adequately protect homes, businesses or life, should not be an option." – Craig Fugate, former FEMA administrator and chairman of Floridians for Safe Communities.*

**Keep Florida Communities Safe By Preserving Florida's Strong Building Codes**

## **What's Being Said About the 5-Year Building Code Cycle**

“The concept is simple: Communities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes generally demonstrate better loss experience. Insurance rates should reflect that. The prospect of reducing catastrophe-related damage and ultimately lowering insurance premiums provides another strong incentive for communities to enforce their building codes rigorously, especially as the codes relate to windstorm, earthquake, fire, and other damaging disasters.” – *ISO's National Building Code Assessment Report, Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule 2015.*

“Hospitals across the country are striving for excellence and are improving patient care based on state-of-the-art science and best practices from the field...Outdated, obsolete codes can pose problems for hospitals, often causing resources to be needlessly diverted away from patient care for requirements that have been changed in newer editions of the code. By adopting the latest codes and standards, authorities regulating hospitals can ensure a safe environment without unnecessarily diminishing scarce health care resources.” – *Rich Umbdenstock, President of the American Hospital Association*

The value of building to current codes is not only to save lives, but also to protect our property investments and save federal and state governments a lot of money in mitigation costs. “The undisputed answer is the adoption and use of modern building codes . . . The path forward to community resilience is the adoption of model codes within three years (not six) of new versions...” – *Mississippi Insurance Department, Commissioner Mike Chaney*

### ***Safe Communities Don't Happen By Accident***

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