



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 18-08

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director
DATE: September 28, 2017

IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTION OF ALL PROVISIONS OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE AS PART OF THE 2015 UNIFORM STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE

WHEREAS, the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development updates Virginia's Uniform Statewide Building Code on a three-year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Board currently is using the 2015 International Building Code as adopted by the International Code Commission plus previous Virginia amendments as the basis for the 2015 Uniform Statewide Building Code; and

WHEREAS, each update of the International Building Code includes an update of the International Energy Conservation Code which defines requirements for energy efficiency performance in buildings; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's amendments to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code to include in the 2012 Uniform Statewide Building Code dramatically reduced the 27% energy cost reduction and the \$272 net annual savings starting in year one that the United States Department of Energy calculated would have been obtained by the average new homeowner in Virginia had the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code been included without amendment; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code includes those cost-effective provisions of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code that were excluded from Virginia's 2012 Uniform Statewide Building Code and which still would reduce the total cost of housing for the average new Virginia home; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy "Field Study" of energy code compliance in the southeastern United States, as well as data presented by Virginia HERS raters at the May 15, 2017 public hearing on the draft 2015 Uniform Statewide Building Code, indicate that the visual inspection option for assessing building and duct air-tightness, which was eliminated in the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code but amended into the 2012 Uniform Statewide Building Code, does not provide equal protection for all Virginia consumers; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code provides nominal increases in efficiency compared to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code while expanding compliance paths for builders, which now makes Virginia's primary challenge and opportunity that of catching up with the efficiency techniques that have been part of the International Energy Conservation Code since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Virginia law requires that Virginia's building regulations "protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Commonwealth, provided that buildings and structures should be permitted to be constructed, rehabilitated and maintained at the least possible cost consistent with recognized standards of health, safety, energy conservation and water conservation" and Virginia's residential energy conservation provisions currently are substantially in-consistent with critical and cost-effective provisions of the 2012 and 2015 International Energy Conservation Codes; and

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia Regional Commission member local governments have established goals to substantially reduce energy consumption and resulting emissions; and

WHEREAS, nationally energy use in buildings accounts for approximately 40% of all energy used, so improving the energy performance of buildings is critical to meeting these energy goals; and

WHEREAS, advanced construction techniques that reduce energy use in the region's buildings not only reduce the total cost of building ownership but also reduce the peak demand for energy, lessening the need to increase rates to pay for investments in new electric generation and other energy systems; and

WHEREAS adopting the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code without amendment would increase the efficiency of the building stock and create a level minimum standard for construction across the Northern Virginia region, the National Capital Region, and the Commonwealth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission recommends that the Commonwealth of Virginia adopt all of the provisions of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code for incorporation into the 2015 Uniform Statewide Building Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission communicate this recommendation by letter to the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on September 28, 2017.



ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER