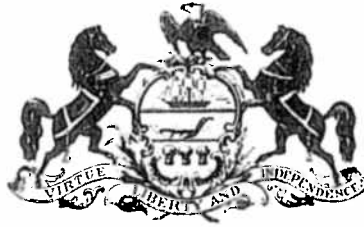


MICHAEL PEIFER, MEMBER
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202139
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2139
PHONE: (717) 783-2037



DISTRICT OFFICE
32 COMMERCIAL STREET
HONESDALE, PA 18431
PHONE: (570) 253-5533

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: *All House Members*

FROM: *Representative Mike Peifer*

RE: *Co-sponsorship – Amend Uniform Construction Code*

DATE: *January 25, 2011*

In the near future I plan to introduce legislation to amend the PA Construction Code Act (Act 45 of 1999) to address two issues that the home building industry is experiencing with the 2009 International Codes Council (ICC) family of codes.

First, the bill amends Act 45 to state that any model code enacted pursuant to the Industrialized Housing Act (Act 70 of 1972) shall not include provisions which were specifically omitted from that same code's adoption as part of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). Under current law, the UCC Review and Advisory Council is tasked with reviewing triennial ICC codes and removing provisions that they might find not needed in Pennsylvania. However, the law, as written, does not apply the Council's exclusions for Industrialized Housing. My legislation corrects that problem.

Secondly, my bill amends Act 45 to add alternative energy efficiency standards for log homes. Log walls with a minimum average wall thickness of five inches or greater which comply with the ICC standard on the design and

construction of log homes (ICC 400-2007) will be permitted in residential buildings if the homes meet energy efficiency standards delineated in the bill.

*Log homes were built under the 2006 ICC codes by utilizing energy efficiency equipment trade-offs to offset the low insulation R-value relative to the 5" logs most commonly used in the construction of log homes. These energy efficiency trade-offs were removed from the 2009 IECC (International Energy Conservation Code), while wall insulation requirements were made even higher in the new code. **The log home building industry strongly supports this proposed change.***

Lastly, my bill would require the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of Act 45, to include a review of how the triennial ICC codes are adopted.

*My legislation is similar to Senate Bill 1077 (Baker) of last session which passed the Senate unanimously this past March. **The PA Builders Association strongly supports this legislation.** If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Barb Dysard by calling 783-2037 or email her at bdysard@pahousegop.com.*