



National Association of State Energy Officials:

Board of Directors Resolution Supporting Utility Involvement in Energy-Efficient Building Codes

WHEREAS, State and Territory Energy Offices have long recognized the importance of energy efficiency in the development of a successful national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, homes and commercial buildings are America's largest energy-consuming sector – together using over 40 percent of the nation's energy, two-thirds of our electricity consumption, one-eighth of our water use, and responsible for almost 40% of our carbon dioxide emissions¹; and

WHEREAS, reducing building energy consumption is an important objective for our country; and

WHEREAS, studies show that these energy efficiency improvements enhance the affordability, security, comfort, and health and safety of home ownership by generating net positive cash flow for homeowners; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes help safeguard commercial owners and tenants from long-term financial burdens that can result from short-term design and construction decisions and can afford protection from energy price volatility; and

WHEREAS, energy-efficient buildings provide energy, economic, and environmental benefits for many years, and enhance our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes are a key component of a sustainable future for our country; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes set minimum requirements for energy-efficient design and construction of new and renovated buildings that impact energy use and emissions over the decades-long lifetimes of the buildings; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes make our daily lives better by improving indoor air quality and public health, promoting environmentally-friendly behaviors such as recycling and generating less waste and providing a more comfortable and productive work environment; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes help drive the development, deployment, and innovation of new building technologies and design strategies; and

WHEREAS, more education, training and awareness continue to be needed at the local level on the tools, applications, best practices and support materials for greater building energy code adoption, implementation and compliance; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes decrease the impact and peak load of buildings, helping to lessen the stress on the electricity grid system, which increases grid reliability; and

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Program. Building Energy Codes Resource Guide for Policy Makers. PNNL-SA-81023. June 2011.

WHEREAS, many of the country's electric and gas investor-owned utility companies and consumer-owned electric and gas utilities administer and implement energy efficiency and demand side management programs that complements the state energy office programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, many opportunities exist for utilities to be more active in building energy code related activities, including but not limited to, providing local builder and code official training, offering incentives for more energy efficient new building construction, promoting technologies and design approaches that are above minimum code, integrating building energy codes into resource planning, providing direct access to end-use customers, and sharing program experiences in support of new building energy codes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) encourages state energy officials and state utility commissions to 1) recognize the critical role that electric and gas investor-owned utility companies and consumer-owned gas and electric utilities can play in helping with the successful development, adoption, implementation, enforcement and compliance of building energy codes; 2) provide state energy policies and opportunities for utilities to incorporate building energy code related activities in their energy efficiency portfolios and resource planning; and 3) establish policies that recognize, evaluate and provide credit for the energy savings resulting from utilities' support for energy codes related activities.

Recommended by NASEO's Buildings Committee and adopted by the NASEO Board of Directors on Dec. 15, 2011.