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I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the approximately 1,350 members our professional association represents in Connecticut. We wish to publicly acknowledge the extraordinary work of the volunteer members of the Codes and Standards Committee.

This volunteer board meets regularly to review matters related to the State of Connecticut Building and Fire codes. They take extensive quantities of time from their workdays to volunteer their technical expertise to assist the Department of Public Safety in reviewing and regularly updating Connecticut Building and Fire Safety codes for the direct benefit and the protection of the citizens of our state. Connecticut is recognized as a leader within our country for our up to date and well-constructed Building and Fire codes, having first adopted a statewide building code in 1971.

This Board reviews new or updated editions of national model codes and modifies them to be appropriate for conditions within Connecticut. They invite input through a public testimony process. They then draft revisions to the codes and after review by the Department, forward them to the Legislature for adoption. This process requires very specific technical knowledge and a complete understanding of the design and construction process as well as experience in the regulatory process and enforcement process. Local Building Officials and local Fire Marshals rely on the expertise of those who are responsible for writing our codes and ensuring that they are current and timely for conditions in Connecticut.

These volunteers receive nothing in exchange for their service. We wish to publicly applaud their generosity and thank them for their willingness to serve our citizens. Their expert assistance and technical knowledge offered to the Department of Public Safety and to the State is invaluable. Their collective technical knowledge could be measured only in the many thousands of dollars per hour of volunteer time provided to the State.

Thank you to each of the members of the Codes and Standards Committee, and to the Department of Public Safety staff who assists the Codes and Standards Committee. AIA Connecticut and each of our 1,350 members benefit from your service, but only to a modest extend when compared to the benefit received by each and every citizen within our State. Every time any one of us enters a building that is safe and complies with codes and regulations of our State, we should applaud your efforts and volunteer spirit. Thank you.

Diane Harp Jones

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