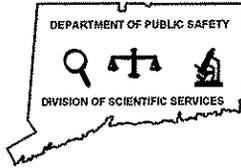


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 3, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6284 AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF A MODEL ENERGY CODE AND GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

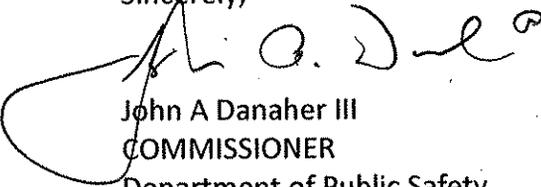
The Department of Public Safety recognizes the importance of the sustainable design and energy conservation goals of Public Act 07-242, but the language of the act creates problems due to the unique nature of how building codes are adopted and administered. For instance, a project is subject to the requirements of the State Building Code in effect at the time of building permit application. By providing a date certain for compliance, the act creates a situation whereby requirements may change over the life of a project, resulting in unnecessary cost, confusion and inconsistent uniform code enforcement problems. The agency has been advised that this is having a chilling effect on projects throughout the state.

Limiting the application of the rating systems named in the statute avoids having to include things that building codes do not address, such as a requirement that bicycle racks be installed or lumber for the project be obtained from certain types of forests. Instead, the bill makes clear that it only applies to building envelope and mechanical systems, topics traditionally addressed by building codes.

Removal of the construction dollar cost stipulation threshold is necessary due to the wide variety of financial demographics prevalent in the State. Building construction costs vary considerably from portions of the state that are adjacent to other neighboring states as well as from a city to a town. Removal of the previous waiver language is also important. The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University consists of a professor and several student interns. They are not equipped to handle the volume of requests that will come in from private development projects throughout the state. Instead, removal of this language allows the typical building code modification process to apply.

Finally, the additional time to adopt the new requirements will give the agency the opportunity to develop new code language, utilize and implement uniform available International Energy Codes, and take it through the regulation adoption process. This process typically takes up to a year from the date the final draft is completed by the agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a small circle at the end.

John A Danaher III
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety