

Testimony of: Raymond S. Steadward Jr. Bloomfield Building Official/ CBOA president

Wednesday March 8, 2016

Chairman Dargan, Chairman Larson, Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, for the record my name is Raymond S. Steadward Jr. from the Town of Bloomfield and President of Connecticut Building Officials Association and I am here to testify in support of:

SB-388

**ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUILDING AND FIRE CODES.**

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

I would like to offer this testimony in support for this bill so that we can streamline the code adoption process which has many benefits and no drawbacks. Updating our codes in a timelier manner puts us in a position to allow newer technologies and safety features not addressed in our dated codes. It also makes it easier for designers, contractors, and developers that come from outside of CT to use the codes they are more accustomed to, and in some cases, books in our code are not even in print any longer. The Codes and Standards Committee in conjunction with OSBI and OSFM are all experts in their fields with the public's safety and interest in mind. They have an open code development process for adoption and amendments with public input and hearings that allow anyone who wants to participate and have a voice or share their ideas to benefit the built environment. This will also help municipalities that are currently being penalized with their ISO ratings for having such outdated codes. Being able to keep up with current codes will ensure the highest level of safety for our citizens and not limit advances in technologies and techniques.

Thank You!

Raymond S. Steadward Jr.

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CBOA President