



People Helping People Build a Safer World™

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

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PRESIDENT

May 19, 2005

HENRY L. GREEN
Executive Director

NIST

100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

WALLY BAILEY, C.B.O.
Director, Development and Construction
Ft. Smith, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Grosshandler:

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
ANNE R. vonWELLER, C.B.O.

I'm writing you today as Chairman of the International Fire Code Council. We

St. Louis, Missouri

THE SERVICE.

JAMES L. BROTHERS
Building Director
Decatur, Alabama

Please consider this correspondence a formal comment on the report recently

Director, Dept. of Codes Administration
Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee

appears to be well planned and executed, with several positive recommendations for improvement in our fire prevention defenses.

JOHN DARNALL, C.B.O.
Assistant Director of Development Services
Tumwater, Washington

Each time a major loss like this occurs, we hear from political leaders, fire service leaders, and attorneys that we must take action to assure that this "never happens again." Immediately thereafter, the attacks begin. "Blame the regulations – fix the code!" "The regulator wasn't competent (or even...)" "The

WILLIAM L. DUCK, JR., C.B.O.
Director, Dept. of Inspections and Code
Columbus, Georgia

owners put money ahead of safety – they are to blame." While each of these arguments may or may not have merit in any given case (usually all three come into play), there is a very important piece of this puzzle that continues to be ignored – that is, the fact that the fire prevention mission in this country is simply

Building Official
Chesterfield, Virginia

GERALD D. GEORGE, C.B.O.
Chief Building Official
Boulder County, Colorado

GREG JOHNSON

Redwood City, California

Codes Administrator
Overland Park, Kansas

What this country needs, and a recommendation your report should include, is for the leadership of each political subdivision in this country – at every level – village, city, county, state, and federal – to take a stand against the dangerous operation of businesses, whether the business be manufacturing, entertainment, retail, or some other. Further, these leaders should assess their fire prevention operations and assure that the enforcers are well trained, that there are enough inspectors to conduct the appropriate number of inspections in their jurisdiction

KEVIN H. SCOTT
Fire Marshal
Kern County Fire Department
Bakersfield, California

STEVEN I. SHAPIRO, C.B.O.
Director of Codes Compliance
Hampton, Virginia

ADOLF A. ZUBIA
Fire Chief

Mr. William Grosshandler
NIST
May 19, 2005
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and that the leadership has the political will to support the fire prevention efforts when some business person decides that the regulations should not apply to him.

Without this change in culture, all the codes in the world, and all the science in the world, will not change the current situation. Rather, we will continue to see massive losses of life and property until we, as a nation, say "enough is enough."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment; I stand ready and available for further discussions, if you so desire.

Sincerely,

Thomas Riviere

~~Tom Riviere~~

cc: Don Carcieri, Governor
State of Rhode Island