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May 20, 2010

Ms. Brenda Edwards  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Building Technologies Program  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Mailstop EE-2J  
Washington, DC 20585

**SUBJECT: NASEO Comments on April 21, 2010, Federal Register Notice**

Dear Ms. Edwards:

It is the belief of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) that efficient building energy codes is a cornerstone strategy to effectively responding to our Nation's energy and climate challenges. As such, NASEO has been diligently working with the State and Territory Energy Offices (SEOs), as well as other partnering organizations, to advance model energy code development and implementation at both the State and Federal levels.

In response to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) April 21, 2010 Federal Register Notice (Vol. 75, No. 76), NASEO, in conjunction with the Energy Foundation, hosted a "Building Energy Code Coordination and Strategic Implementation Workshop" on April 26-27, 2010, in Washington DC. Attendance at this two-day Workshop was limited to approximately sixty-five (65) stakeholders representing federal and state energy and code authority agencies, code and standards development bodies, regional energy efficiency organizations, environmental groups, national efficiency advocates, training and technical assistance organizations, local government associations, and sponsoring foundations. Several key questions and themes which emerged on how DOE can better assist the states to adopt, implement, enforce and assess compliance with the current model building energy codes or their equivalent included:

- 1. Code book need to be made widely available on-line and at no charge to support building code officials and expand capabilities to provide state and local assistance.**
- 2. Improve information flow and communication among federal, state, and local agencies to eliminate duplication, fill gaps, unify policy direction, save resources, and operate more efficiently.**
- 3. Develop toolbox templates which include "best practices" guidance materials and model code adoption language.**
- 4. Expand education and training to include not just builders, but also advocates and critical stakeholders.**
- 5. Compile real data on code impacts which enable state and local agencies to perform better measurement and verification of savings evaluations.**
- 6. Improve coordination of policies across federal agencies to support the advancement codes development and implementation.**
- 7. Increase the Department's budget to support planned state compliance pilot projects.**
- 8. Maximize regional or innovative funding to support energy codes by integrating codes into existing state program portfolios.**

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The key questions and themes, as well as recommendations to DOE's Federal Register Notice request were compiled into a workshop report, which has been included with this letter. We look forward to working with the Department in the upcoming months in advancing the goal of increased adoption and compliance with the latest model building energy codes, Standard 90.1-2007, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Buildings* (or equivalent), for commercial buildings and the *2009 International Energy Conservation Code* (or equivalent) for low-rise residential buildings.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact Brian Henderson at: (518) 469-7497 or [bhenderson@naseo.org](mailto:bhenderson@naseo.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Terry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David Terry  
Executive Director

cc: Jean Boulin, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies, Program  
Margo Appel, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies Program

Enclosures