

FEMA NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

**COMMENTS OF:
THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC)
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The International Code Council (ICC) offers the following comments to the National Advisory Committee, as it meets to hear from its Subcommittees on January 26 and 27, 2011.

The International Code Council (Code Council) is a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention, and energy efficiency. The International Codes, or I-Codes, published by the Code Council, provide minimum safeguards for people at home, at school and in the workplace. Building codes benefit public safety and support the industry's need for one set of codes without regional limitations. The International Code Council also publishes the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which is referenced in the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007, and is a national requirement in section 410 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Fifty states and the District of Columbia have adopted the I-Codes at the state or jurisdictional level. Federal agencies including the Architect of the Capitol, General Services Administration, National Park Service, Department of State, U.S. Forest Service and the Veterans Administration also enforce the I-Codes for the facilities that they own or manage. The Department of Defense references the International Building Code for constructing military facilities, including those that house U.S. troops, domestically and abroad.

The International Code Council was established in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The founders of the Code Council are Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI). Since the early part of the last century, these non-profit organizations developed three separate sets of model codes used throughout the United States. Although regional code development had been effective and responsive to our country's needs, the time came for a single set of codes. The nation's three model code

overlooked or worse, delayed as an unnecessary expense, or explained away or watered down

We appreciate all the good work that FEMA and the NAC are doing, and we ask them to clearly include, as a specific and actionable item in every list of mitigation strategies, the adoption and strong enforcement of the latest model building codes in every community around the nation.

We also suggest that for the growing problem