



State of Idaho
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
C. Kelly Pearce
Administrator

Building a Safer Idaho

1090 East Watertower Street Suite 150
Meridian, Idaho 83642
Main # 1-800-955-3044
Fax # 1-877-810-2840
dbs.idaho.gov

October 25, 2011

Interim Energy, Environment and Technology Committee
Representative George Eskridge, Co-Chair
Senator Curt McKenzie, Co-Chair

RE: 5 year update of Idaho's 2007 State Energy Plan

Gentlemen,

It has been brought to my attention that the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance Board has recommended that the Interim Energy Committee remove action item E-10 from the 2012 Energy Plan update. E-10 states that "Idaho should adopt the International Building Codes on a three year cycle as a minimum for building energy efficiency standards and should provide technical and financial assistance to local jurisdictions for implementation and enforcement".

Speaking for the Division of Building Safety (DBS) and as a past chairman of the State Building Code Board, which recommends adoption of the International Building Code (IBC), International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to the state legislature, I would like to recommend a slight change to action item E-10. Rather than removing the item in its entirety, simply change the word "adopt" to "review."

DBS is heavily vested in the effort to bring the State into compliance with the 2009 codes. This has been a particularly daunting task as it relates to the IECC. The fact that we still have a lot of work ahead of us to fully implement the 2009 IECC, on both the industry side and the enforcement side, is generally accepted by building officials, industry and advocates.

For this reason it makes sense to move away from automatic adoption of the codes on a 3 year cycle. However, we do need to at least review them. The Building Code Board does have the ability to recommend addendums and/or amendments to the codes. The Board could potentially find items in the 2012 codes and/or subsequent codes that need to be adopted without adopting the code in its entirety. It is also important to retain the language relative to technical and financial assistance for local jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue,

Ron Whitney
Regional Manager
Division of Building Safety
208-332-7150