

1 BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2 PUBLIC HEARING
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11 A public hearing of the Board of Housing and
12 Community Development was held at Virginia Housing
13 Center, 4224 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 on
14 Monday, July 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. before Colleen
15 Good, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public in
16 and for the Commonwealth of Virginia.
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- 1 MEMBERS PRESENT:
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- 3 Steve Semones
- 4 J.P. Carr
- 5 Erik Johnston
- 6 Kyle Flanders
- 7 Earl Reynolds
- 8 Keith Johnson
- 9 Ernie Little
- 10 Abigail Johnson
- 11 Jeff Sadler
- 12 Sonny Abbasi
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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1 J.P. CARR: Good morning, my name is
2 J.P. Carr, I currently serve as the Chairman of
3 Virginia Housing and Community Development. The
4 Board is holding a public hearing today to receive
5 comments prior to the proposed regulations.
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7 At this point it's my pleasure to
8 welcome the members of the Board of the Housing
9 Community Development and the Virginia Fire
10 Services Board, thank you joining us. They are
11 present today.

12 Before we begin to receive comment,
13 I'd like to explain how the hearing will be
14 conducted, anyone wishing to speak should sign in
15 at the registration desk near the door.

16 Comments are offered by, comments
17 offered by a previous speaker need not be
18 repeated. The speaker may establish their
19 position on any point simply by referring to their
20 earlier statement which expresses his or her
21 position.

22 We ask that each speaker limit their
23 remarks to two minutes due to the number of people
24 expected to comment on these various issues. We
25 welcome the submission of written statements in

1 such cases oral comments are not necessary. The
2 Board will review all written materials that are
3 submitted. If you have written statements today,
4 please leave them with Kyle Flanders, member of
5 the Board.

6 We will receive public comment for
7 regulations in this order, so first off is the
8 Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. Next,
9 the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations,
10 following VADR, Virginia Industrialized Building
11 Safety Regulations. Next the Uniform Statewide
12 Building Code, general comments, followed by any
13 comments specific to the Emergency Cooling
14 Regulations. Finally we will hear any comments on
15 the Virginia Certification Standards and
16 Manufacturing Home Safety Regulations.

17 I now open the public hearing. Call
18 the first speaker, and we are talking first about
19 the Virginia Fire Prevention Code. Do we have any
20 speakers on the Fire Prevention Code?

21 Next we will move on to the Virginia
22 Amusement Device Regulations, any speakers on
23 that?

24 The Virginia Industrialized Building
25 Safety Regulations, any speakers on those?

1 Next, the Uniformed Statewide
2 Building Code general comments. I think we do
3 have, are there two speakers for that one?

4 I would like to call Laura Wynn.
5 Would you like to speak?

6 LAURA WYNN: Good morning, everyone.
7 My name is Laura Wynn. I'm with the Responsible
8 Energy Codes Alliance. I work with Eric Lacey.
9 I'm also a resident of the Commonwealth, I live up
10 in Arlington County and before that I lived in
11 Williamsburg, Virginia.

12 I'm here to talk to you today, just
13 introduce myself and to kind of give you a broad
14 statement of where RECO is coming from as we're
15 going into the 2018 code update process.

16 When Virginia was considering the
17 2012 code updates, Virginia ended adopting several
18 weakening amendments which have really left a lot
19 of energy conservation on the table and really has
20 resulted in a lot of energy and cost that are
21 really much higher than they should be for
22 Virginia.

23 Just to give you a couple of examples
24 blow door testing which is really quick and simple
25 to do, it is not only going to improve energy and

1 cost savings for Virginians, it will also improve
2 indoor health, indoor air quality and therefore
3 health and safety for Virginians.

4 Also another amendment which got made
5 in the 2012 process was weakening amendments for
6 wall and ceiling insulation, and those have been
7 proven time and time again to be cost effective
8 and result in a lot of energy and cost savings for
9 Virginians.

10 Now when, you know, a lot of these
11 weakening amendments have been carried through,
12 not only where they adopted in the 2012 update,
13 but it's because of the way Virginia's code
14 process works, they were carried through to 2015.

15 And now a lot of industry
16 stakeholders, efficiency advocates and
17 environmental groups are coming to you in this
18 2018 code update process to ask you to support
19 updates which would eliminate these weakening
20 amendments and basically bring Virginia up to the
21 National Energy Code.

22 We believe Virginia is a regional and
23 national leader and we think they should be up to
24 date and even ahead of the codes if they can,
25 where it's possible.

1 So just to, kind of, again, I wanted
2 to introduce myself, I'm Laura Wynn, and just to
3 let you know I'm here for comments and questions
4 if you all have any. Thank you.

5 J.P. CARR: Thank you. I'd like to
6 call up Chelsea Harnish.

7 CHELSEA HARNISH: Good morning, thank
8 you for providing the opportunity to speak. I
9 concur with everything that Laura just said, so I
10 won't repeat what she said, but I would just add
11 that what, so there was a DOE field study that was
12 done earlier, well, last year and wrapped up
13 earlier this year, and it was done by Meridian on
14 behalf of the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
15 and funded through the Department of Energy.

16 And that field study went and they
17 tested various different pieces of the code to
18 check for compliance for homes that are being
19 built today, and one thing I just wanted to point
20 out was that they did show that based on the code
21 before duct blaster testing was included in the
22 code which was (inaudible) last fall, 74 percent
23 of ducts were failing.

24 So I just wanted to point out that I
25 think it was great that the testing for ducts was

1 added last year, but for, on the building thermal
2 envelope, only 78 percent of the homes were
3 passing and so while that is a high passing rate,
4 we do see that only 22 percent of the -- 22
5 percent of homes being built, they are not meeting
6 the current standards.

7 So with the five air changes per hour
8 standard on the books as part of the Uniformed
9 Statewide Building Code, we see that there are
10 still some homes that are not passing what is
11 currently on the books.

12 That's why it's incredibly important
13 now we also have mechanical testing for the blower
14 door, mechanical testing which is a blower door
15 test in the next cycle. So I just wanted to
16 advocate for that. Thank you.

17 J.P. CARR: Thank you. That's the
18 only two people we have signed up. Are there any
19 other people who would like to speak?

20 Okay, we will close that out and move
21 on to Emergency Cooling Regulations. Is there
22 anybody that would like to speak about Emergency
23 Cooling Regulations?

24 Okay, hearing none. We will hear
25 comments on Virginia Certification Standards and

1 the Manufactured Home Safety Regulations. Would
2 anyone like to speak about that?

3 Hearing no further comments we are
4 going to close the public comment section. You
5 can always submit written comments to Kyle which
6 would be entered into the record for the Board to
7 review.

8 With that I think we will close the
9 public comment portion. Thank you.

10 (The public comment portion of the meeting
11 concluded at 10:20 a.m.)

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2 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

3 I, Colleen Good, hereby certify that I was the
4 Court Reporter for the Board of Housing and
5 Community Development public hearing at the offices
6 Virginia Housing Center, 4224 Cox Road, Glen Allen,
7 VA 23060 on Monday, July 22, 2018 at the time of the
8 hearing herein.

9 I further certify that the foregoing
10 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
11 hearing herein.

12 Given under my hand this 31st day of
13 July, 2019.

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16 COLLEEN GOOD, CCR, Court Reporter
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20 My Commission Expires:
21 September 30, 2023
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