



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION

October 12, 2018

California Building Standards Commission
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833-2936

RE: Support for OSFM Proposed changes CRC-Item 4, CBC-Item 17 & CCR: Flammability Standards for Building Insulation Materials

Dear Members of the California Building Standards Commission:

I am the Deputy Director for the Building Inspection & Safety Division of the Marin County Community Development Agency.

It has come to my attention that the California State Fire Marshal's Office has introduced a proposal "Flammability Standards for Building Insulation Materials" which would change the California Building Code, California Residential Code, and California Code of Regulations to allow the use of polystyrene building insulation without added flame retardants for use in below-grade applications.

We have many builders, developers, and property owners in our county who have embraced "green-building" technologies and materials. Our County government has been a sustainability leader, encouraging and supporting positive change to keep Marin County healthy, vibrant, and sustainable for many generations into the future.

Some of these green building techniques require constructive modification of the building codes as well as our inspection protocols. My agency's perspective has always been that the building code should not be an obstacle to innovation, provided the code continues to ensure safety, protection and building integrity.

I have reviewed the Fire Marshal's proposal as well as the Oklahoma State University's fire study evaluating the burn characteristics of below grade polystyrene insulation without added flame retardants. I have concluded that this change in the state building codes would not pose an increased fire risk for buildings using this material installed below grade. Because the proposed code changes would require clear labeling on the product itself, I do not believe this would add any additional burden for our building inspectors to enforce.

Sincerely,

William "Bill" Kelley, CBO

Deputy Director, Building and Safety

CC: Chief Dennis Mathisen, Office of the State Fire Marshal

PUBLIC COMMENT on PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS

For Publication in Title 24, California Code of Regulations

See instructions for completing this form on Page 2.

Commenter Contact Information

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Proposed Building Standard

Title 24 Part #: (select one) Part 2.5 Section #: _____

Proposing State Agency Office of the State Fire Marshal

This comment is intended
for review during:
(select one)
☐ Code Advisory Committee
☒ 45-Day Comment Period
☐ 15-Day Comment Period
☐ Commission Meeting

Your recommendation based on the criteria of Health and Safety Code Section 18930(a) printed on the back of this form is: (select one)

☒ Approve ☐ Disapprove
☐ Further Study Required ☐ Approve as Amended

In support of your recommendation above, provide the rationale based on the criteria of Health and Safety Code Section 18930(a) printed on the back of this form. If you recommend anything other than approve, cite the criteria in your comment. If you oppose a proposed building standard, offer a solution or alternative for the state agency to consider. Please use separate pages if your comment does not fit in this space.

ALL 9 CRITERIA ARE SATISFIED, WITH THE POSSIBLE
EXCEPTION OF CRITERIA # 7.

Attachments?

☐ Check if you have attached additional pages. The number of pages attached is: _____

For CBSC Office Use Only Date Received: _____ Rulemaking Item #: _____