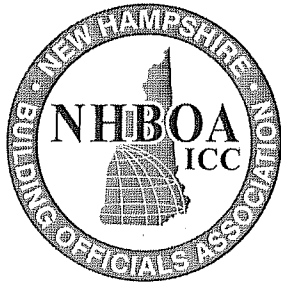


NEW HAMPSHIRE BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Established in 1965



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Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Honorable James Belanger, Chair
Municipal and County Governments

RE: Opposition to HB 288

Chairman Belanger and
Members of the Municipal and County Government Committee;

On behalf of the New Hampshire Building Officials Association I wish to present this letter of **opposition for HB 288** as written and before your committee for legislative consideration.

HB 288 will modify the manner in which the current State energy code is enforced within municipalities by creating a patchwork of homes built to the energy code. Not only will this cause confusion for building officials and home builders by not having clear, statewide code requirements, HB 288 will leave consumers without the benefit of a modern and energy efficient home, thereby costing them additional energy dollars to heat & light their homes. Although this may be acceptable for the initial builder, it may not be in the best interest for the unsuspecting future owner.

The energy code has become an integral part of new home construction. The optimal time to insure a safe and energy efficient home is during the construction process, by opting out there would not be any verification of installed energy efficiencies components. Over the lifespan of the home there will be very few opportunities to address insulation and air barrier provisions built into the exterior shell. The housing industry has also seen consumers requesting more energy efficient homes and the marketing of such is important in resale values.

As public safety officials, our Association recognizes the technical and professional expertise that goes into establishing a nationally recognized code and firmly believes in the due process the NH legislature created in 2002 with the creation of RSA 155-A. The legislature ensured the protections of its citizenry's rights to request modifications to the adopted state codes by applying to the Building Code Review Board. It is our belief the citizens of NH are best served if such a code enforcement elimination request, as contained in HB 288, follows the process established in the 2002 law. We recognize the legislature's authority to amend the statutes of our state, but we also believe any effort to involve the legislature should be explored only after all other forms of due process have been exhausted.

To summarize: NHBOA is **opposed to HB 288** since there is another avenue for code modification that does not encumber the valuable time of the members of the NH legislature and removal of a code enforcement requirement that has statistically proven to reduce energy costs across the nation.

Respectfully submitted,
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