



April 26, 2022

Senator James Coleman, Chairman
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee
Senate Committee Room 352

Re: International Code Council Comments Supporting SB22-206 as Amended

Dear Chairman Coleman and Members of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the International Code Council¹ (Code Council) in support of Senator Fenberg's introduction of SB22-206 as amended.

The Code Council is a member-focused non-profit association dedicated to building safety and sustainability. We are proud to count Colorado, many of its local jurisdictions, and hundreds of Coloradans as our Governmental Members. The Code Council develops the model building codes, the International Codes (I-Codes), used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures. The I-Codes are the most widely used and adopted set of model building codes in the U.S. They are adopted by the State of Colorado and its local communities. Developed through a consensus-based process, the I-Codes incorporate the latest technology and provide the safest, most resilient structures for our families and communities.²

The Code Council commends Governor Polis, Senator Fenberg, the Colorado Department of Public Safety, and the Colorado Fire Commission for their diligent work to address wildland fire in the State of Colorado. Senate Bill 206 addresses several needs in the reconstruction of damaged communities while also maintaining a strong focus on community resilience. As amended, this proposal also creates the Wildfire Resiliency Code Board. Establishing the Board ensures a stakeholder-driven wildland fire code development process that will result in safer, more resilient Colorado communities.

The adoption, implementation and enforcement of modern fire-resistant building codes is one of the most impactful steps Colorado can take to mitigate wildfire risk, which is significant and increasing given the changing climate. In Denver alone, nearly 56,000 single family residences are at risk.³

The Congressionally established National Institute of Building Science (NIBS) found in its [2019 Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves Report](#) that adopting and implementing the International Code Council's 2015 International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) saved \$4 for every \$1 invested and that retrofitting structures to the IWUIC could provide as much as \$8 in mitigation benefits for each \$1 invested. These benefits represent avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs and are enjoyed by all building stakeholders including developers, titleholders, lenders, tenants, and communities.

¹ See <https://www.iccsafe.org/about/who-we-are/>

² See <https://www.iccsafe.org/products-and-services/i-codes/code-development/>

³ <https://www.corelogic.com/press-releases/insights/wildfires-threaten-the-west-nearly-2-million-homes-at-elevated-risk-of-wildfire-damage-according-to-corelogic/>.

A [McClatchy analysis](#) following the California Camp Fire in October 2018 found that 51% of the structures built after a similar WUI code was implemented escaped damage compared to 18% of the 12,100 structures built prior. Adopting and implementing a WUI code would also align Colorado with FEMA's [requirements](#) for federal buildings and [federally assisted](#) reconstruction in the WUI.

SUMMARY

The Code Council is happy to continue our service as a resource to the State of Colorado and offers our thanks for the opportunity to comment in support of the proposed Senate Bill.

Sincerely,



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Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

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SB22-206 Disaster Preparedness & Recovery Resources

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Greg Harms For Self	As a survivor of the Marshall Fire, I support this bill as I attempt to rebuild my house in the most climate-positive way. Being underinsured, as most were, any assistance from the State would be very helpful. Thank you, Greg Harms Louisville, CO
Clint Folsom For Town of Superior	Honorable Senators, Thank you for your consideration of SB22-206. As you know, the effects of the Marshall Fire were devastating on the Town of Superior and our surrounding communities. We lost 382 homes which represents nearly 10% of our total housing. We want as many of these residents to stay and re-build, yet they are facing several challenges including under-insurance and rising construction costs. Re-building in a sustainable and resilient manner is the best strategy for our residents and other residents of future disasters around our state. Unfortunately, the circumstances that created the tragedy in Superior and Louisville can occur anywhere in the state where dry conditions combine with wind and fire so being better prepared is our only option. The funding and programs established through SB22-206 are a good investment those immediately struggling to recover and looks towards the future through the creation of the Office of Climate Preparedness. Thank you for your support of SB22-206. Mayor Clint Folsom Town of Superior