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Canadian
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Association canadienne
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May 13, 2009

Bruce Clemmensen, Chair
Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes
c/o Anne Gribbon, Acting Secretary
Canadian Codes Centre / National Research Council
Building M-23A
1200 Montreal Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6

Re: Protocol for addressing new objectives in model codes

Dear Bruce:

The CHBA is aware that the initial application of the new protocol for addressing new objectives in model national codes involves questions that are not usually part of Code deliberations. These questions arise from the fact that energy efficiency is the particular focus of a new proposed objective, and this necessarily involves consideration of factors that are different than those underpinning existing objectives.

This being the case, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) will need to move ahead expeditiously if it is to meet its intended schedule in relation both to consideration of a new energy efficiency objective, and the development of related requirements, should this new objective be established.

This effort will require clarity in relation to the requirements of the protocol itself, as well as both the standard of analysis and policy framework required by the CCBFC. We note that the protocol document includes the following direction:

*"Consideration of adding a new objective must proceed in a disciplined manner, following a defined protocol **that leads from a broad overview considering public policy concerns**, through an examination of options, to development of code provisions. The CCBFC must make a decision whether to proceed at each step in the process."* (emphasis added)

It has been the CHBA's expectation that the first step in this process, that of defining a policy framework related to the proposed new objective, would involve a robust consideration of factors, most particularly public policy concerns at the national and regional levels.

As well, it is very important that any objective incorporated into the Code have a clear rationale and purpose. This will guide future Code writers in their deliberations, when and if requests for changes are made. Put simply, if energy efficiency is to become a Code objective, it is imperative that the reasons for this are set down in a clear and coherent way.

From the CHBA's perspective, in considering public policy concerns, both provincial and federal policies are pertinent. The CHBA believes it is imperative that the CCBFC ensure that this stage of the protocol is well-grounded in relation to public policy at both levels.

As well as considering the intentions of provincial governments, the rationale for an energy efficiency objective in the national code must be informed by a range of existing federal policies, ranging from energy security, to climate change, to public health. It is very important that this policy framework be articulated clearly by the Executive Committee, so that the purpose and intended scope of any new objective is set out properly. We believe that work on this matter should proceed immediately, under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Yours truly,



John Kenward
Chief Operating Officer

cc: CHBA Executive Board