

Michael Pfeiffer
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RE: Supporting Proposal RB116-19 (with option of RB 112-19) for the ICC International Residential Code (IRC)

Greetings my name is Vincent Quintero and thank you for this opportunity to assist in integrating the code enforcement field. Myself, I have been involved with the fire service for approximately 33 years. In multiple capacities starting as; a professional firefighter, a fire medic, then moving into the code enforcement end of the profession as a national Certified Fire Safety Inspector, a Plans Reviewer, some training as a fire investigator, but currently I'm a Fire Safety Training Officer. My Curriculum Vitea includes; two college degrees, BA in Communication and the other in Fire Science, engaged in numerous speaking engagements both here in the states and internationally. Additionally, I reside on three of NFPA Technical Committees; Assembly Occupancy, Means of Egress, and Facilities Fire and Life Safety Directors.

Cohesive code enforcement needs to become a priority. As a code enforcement official for over twenty years, the public depends upon our professional advice and dedicated work in order to maintain a safer environment. Although accidents occur throughout the world, most are preventable, especially in our homes. As Mr. Paul has mentioned and substantiated on numerous occasions and for many years, the numerous code enforcement boards have the ability to reverse this plague.

In the United States, in the construction of one- and two-family dwellings, most fire marshals, only have the jurisdiction to enforce smoke and carbon monoxide alarms policies. The remainder of the code enforcement efficiency for one- and two-family dwellings, rest with the local building officials. Funny thing, in my 20 plus year of fire code enforcement, I've only had a handful of building code officials ever interfere with new or reconstructed stairs. Most local fire marshals and deputy state fire marshals too, rarely interject in residential stairway construction, both inside and outside the dwelling unit, unless it's for a change of use occupancy. Unfortunately, fire marshal jobs do not allocate for consistent presence during these types of construction. Anticipating that the skilled laborers have been trained, educated and versed in proper code compliance. Trust, I believe is the unsung word expected in our work, trust. But who checks their work? Like fire code enforcement jobs, the consumer depends upon our diligence for detail. Catching deficiencies, while under construction, really are necessary and for numerous reasons, but mostly it's cost effective. The cost factor to reconstruct and/or litigation from noncompliance is a waste of time and valuable resources. Let alone the valuable recovery time to rehabilitate oneself after an injury is sustained from any accident, especially a fall. How about the amount of financial resources that gets wasted? Why? Why do valuable resources continued to be wasted? You need to ask yourself "What can I do?" As members of the ICC compliant committee you can do a lot. Change the code!

Committee members, moving forward, proper education, training, and effective newer written standards need to be

instituted in the prevention of such mishaps. As we get older, our physical ability, cognitive awareness and financial abilities generally get depleted and diminish. Unfortunately aging is a natural occurrence and with it generally accidents become prevalent. The health insurance cost becomes more taxing and most vested parties might not be prepared to, or have the ability to afford enough funds to sustain those effected. However, by implementing newer code enforcement standards, aging might become more enjoyable and less physically and financially painful. Please help to right the wrong and pass this new standard. Remember, and mostly, we all get old. So these new standards would affect you and your families as well. Thank you for your time and professional experiences.

Kind Regards

Vincent Quintero, DSFM, CFI

Fire Safety Training Officer

Rhode Island State Fire Marshals' Office

Please forward the Webex Event details/link to me, vincent.quintero@dbr.ri.gov so I can monitor the hearing.