



AIA



June 13, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Plaza Level 05
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) represent more than 10,000 design professionals in Florida and 245,000 nationwide who are trained and licensed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Strong building codes that incorporate the most up-to-date technologies, materials and design strategies are vital to ensuring the safety of the public. These codes establish MINIMUM requirements that our members rely upon to design and guide the construction of homes, hospitals, schools and numerous other types of buildings to protect the citizens of Florida from hazards like hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

That is why we are calling on you to veto CS/CS/HB 1021, legislation that would severely imperil the safety of the public with time by failing to update to the latest safety provisions. This legislation would abandon the code development process that Florida has used for more than two decades to implement some of the strongest and safest building codes in the world.

Proponents of the bill claim that it will save money by streamlining what they claim to be an onerous code updating process. Yet they also acknowledge that this process, implemented in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, has enabled the state to adopt strong building codes. Abandoning a process that works not only makes little sense; it will lead to higher costs for businesses and homeowners – and worse, injuries and loss of life - when poorly constructed buildings fail due to weaker codes.

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The current process enables Floridians to tailor the model building codes to the state's unique needs. It ensures that architects and engineers design buildings with the latest safety advances in mind. And it helps keep Floridians safe. For these reasons, we urge you to veto CS/CS/HB 1021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Ivy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert A. Ivy, FAIA
Chief Executive Officer/EVP, American Institute of Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Smith III". The signature is cursive and includes a small "III" at the end.

Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
Executive Director, American Society of Civil Engineers