



May 7, 2020

Board of Building Regulations and Standards  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710  
Boston, MA 02118

**Re: Request for Extension of Energy Code Concurrency Period to January 1, 2021**

Dear Chairman Crowley and Members of the Board:

Due to the permitting freeze and construction shutdowns caused by COVID-19, NAIOP Massachusetts - The Commercial Real Estate Development Association, the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Home Builders and Remodelers of Massachusetts would like to request an extension of the concurrency period for the new energy code. Specifically, we request that the end date for the concurrency period be extended from August 7, 2020 to January 1, 2021.

Our organizations do not make this request lightly. While we acknowledge that the Commonwealth is required to adopt the latest version of the International Energy Conservation Code within one year of its publication, we also recognize the extraordinary strain the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on every aspect of government and our daily lives.

Across the Commonwealth, municipalities are facing challenges to the way they do business. Some municipalities are unable or unwilling to accept and certify receipt of permit applications due to public health concerns, which means that projects that had initially planned to move forward with the existing code have not been able to do so. Given that there is currently no end-date in sight, it would be a lengthy and expensive process to redesign these projects, potentially jeopardizing them from moving forward even after the State of Emergency is lifted. Furthermore, the backlog of permit applications will be extensive when the State of Emergency is lifted, causing further delays.

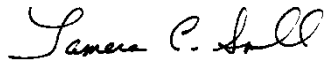
The Commonwealth, and the country have been extraordinarily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is anticipated that the effects of this time will ripple through the economy long after the State of Emergency is over. Massachusetts was in the midst of a housing crisis before the pandemic, and it is our belief this crisis will only deepen without strategic relief. We cannot afford to jeopardize the housing stability of thousands of residents because projects simply cannot move forward due to backlogs and administrative challenges.

We believe that an extension to January 1, 2021 of the concurrency period would provide much needed relief for important economic development and housing projects. We

appreciate your consideration of our request and we urge the Board to vote on this at the May meeting.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tamara C. Small  
Chief Executive Officer  
NAIOP Massachusetts, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association



Greg Vasil  
President  
Greater Boston Real Estate Board



Mathew Anderson  
President  
Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts

ICSC

REALTORS

HOME BUILDERS