



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES & INSPECTIONS
Municipal Services Building - 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1687
(215) 686-2400

CARLTON WILLIAMS SR.
Commissioner

September 18, 2013

Honorable John R. Gordner
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Industry
Senate Box 203027
Main Capitol, Room 177
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3027

Honorable Christine M. Tartaglione
Democratic Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Industry
Senate Box 203002
Capitol Building, Room 458
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3002

Re: SB 1023

Chairman Gordner and Chairwoman Tartaglione:

On behalf of the City of Philadelphia, please accept this written testimony on SB 1023, sponsored by Senator McIlhinney.

The City of Philadelphia strongly supports Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code (UCC) and its intent to ensure uniform, modernized construction standards. Act 45, which established the UCC process, was intended to protect life, health, and property; encourage standardization in construction consistent with nationally-recognized standards; permit to the fullest extent feasible the use of state-of-the-art technical methods, devices, and improvements; and eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and code conflicts. For the City of Philadelphia, these modern codes help streamline code administration and enforcement, increase construction jobs and innovation, and ensure long-term safety and energy efficiency benefits for residents and businesses.

It is the City's view that some of the consequences of Act 1 of 2011—for instance, precluding review of the 2012 ICC code editions—should be reviewed and corrected. SB 1023 is a major step in the right direction. It would restore the charge of the Review and Advisory Council (RAC) to determine which provisions of ICC code editions should be excluded, rather than

included, in the UCC. It provides the RAC with the specific ability to re-review the 2012 code editions. SB1023 also recognizes that the important work of the RAC should be supported by reasonable per diem expenses for RAC members, by the addition to the RAC of members with specific expertise in energy efficiency, and by additional technical and administrative support through the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).

The City of Philadelphia respectfully suggests that Pennsylvania restore the “opt-out” rule for all editions of ICC code, authorize the RAC to review all editions of the 2012 codes and subsequent triennial updates, and provide the RAC with per diems, additional depth on matters of energy efficiency, and enhanced DLI support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlton Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Carlton Williams, Sr.
Commissioner
Department of Licenses and Inspections
City of Philadelphia