

July 30, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin:

As organizations dedicated to the role of codes and standards to support affordability, safety, and resilience, we request your support of H.R. 4072, the Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act (Pro Codes Act)—this bipartisan legislation, introduced by Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Deborah Ross (D-NC) will protect American lives, property, and economic competitiveness by ensuring the continued development and updating of world-class safety codes and standards. The Pro Codes Act mirrors a bill (H.R. 1631) from the 118th Congress, which the House Judiciary Committee advanced by a vote of 19 to 4.

Non-profit standards development organizations (SDOs) develop rigorous national codes and standards through a consensus-based process at no cost to taxpayers. The current standards development system has been effective and efficient for 125 years. Officials at the federal, state, local, and municipal levels depend on the expertise of these SDOs by often incorporating codes and standards into the laws they enact. The result has saved lives, fostered economic growth and innovation, and generated billions of dollars in taxpayer savings.

SDOs undertake the costly process of developing and updating codes and standards at their own expense. One way SDOs recoup costs is by publishing, selling, and licensing standards to those who use them in the course of their work, such as builders, developers, engineers, architects, and manufacturers. This revenue enables SDOs to self-fund the development of updated editions and operate independently of government and industry, ensuring that they can prioritize safety and effectiveness.

Recent court decisions have undermined the development of top-quality safety codes. These decisions enabled for-profit companies—which contribute nothing to the code development process—to sell unpermitted and erroneous copies of these codes. These companies contend that the government incorporation of a code into law forfeits copyright protection, effectively dismantling the public-private standards development system.

The passage of the bipartisan Pro Codes Act will ensure the continued production of high-quality standards and codes that are integral to the functioning of American society. H.R. 4072 clarifies that a standard does not lose its copyright protection by being incorporated by reference into a law or regulation, provided that the standard is available for free viewing on a publicly accessible website. This solution will enable the American people to access codes and standards that affect their daily lives at no cost, while preserving the efficient, effective, and self-funded public-private standards development system.

Without the standards development system we have in place today, Americans would be far more vulnerable to devastating fires, dangerous buildings, substandard consumer products, and a host of other risks.

We ask that you co-sponsor this legislation and support its favorable advancement through the House Judiciary Committee as soon as possible. Please have your staff contact Giulia DiGuglielmo ([giulia.diguglielmo@mail.house.gov](mailto:giulia.diguglielmo@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Issa's office or Tom Koester ([tom.koester@mail.house.gov](mailto:tom.koester@mail.house.gov)) from Rep. Ross' staff to co-sponsor the legislation or request additional information.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association  
American Institute of Steel Construction  
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating  
and Air-Conditioning Engineers  
American Society of Interior Designers  
BIFMA (association for business and  
institutional furniture manufacturers)  
Congressional Fire Services Institute  
Consumer Technology Association  
Copyright Alliance  
Congressional Fire Services Institute

Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association  
Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and  
Services Association  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Code Council  
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association  
National Fire Protection Association  
National Electric Manufacturers  
Association  
National Ready Mix Concrete Association  
National Sanitation Foundation  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
Pool and Hot Tub Alliance