

October 14, 2026

Dear Member of the House Judiciary Committee:

As organizations dedicated to the role of codes and standards, affordability, safety, resilience, and American economic competitiveness, we write to urge your support for the **Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act (Pro Codes Act), H.R. 4072**. As you may know, the legislation could be considered by the House Judiciary Committee when Congress returns from recess and then subsequently voted on by the full House of Representatives.

Throughout the 119th Congress, representatives of our coalition (who all strongly support passage of the Pro Codes Act) have met with and communicated with your staff to discuss the importance of this bill and the voluntary consensus standards system it protects. We greatly appreciate the time and consideration your offices have given this issue.

After months of bipartisan discussions, Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Deborah Ross (D-NC) have reached agreement on revised legislative language that strengthens public access to codes and standards incorporated by reference into law, while preserving the copyright protections necessary to sustain the nation's voluntary consensus standards development system. The updated legislation is attached to this correspondence and largely resembles the measure that was originally introduced in June 2025. We strongly support this bipartisan compromise language.

The legislation reaffirms that a standard does not lose its copyright protection simply because a government incorporates it by reference into a law or regulation. At the same time, the revised bill establishes clear public-access requirements for incorporated standards. These requirements also include that incorporated material be made available online at no monetary cost within 45 days after the SDO receives notice of its incorporation, with appropriate tools to help members of the public locate specific content.

For more than a century, nonprofit standards development organizations (SDOs) have developed and regularly updated the codes and standards that underpin America's built environment, manufacturing economy, infrastructure, fire, and public safety. These standards are developed through open, balanced, consensus-based processes that bring together technical experts, government officials, industry, consumers, and other interested parties. Federal, state, and local governments routinely rely on this expertise by incorporating privately developed codes and standards by reference into laws and regulations.

The impact of this system can be seen throughout American life. Privately developed codes and standards help ensure that homes, schools, offices, and other buildings are constructed safely; that electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and fire-protection systems perform as intended; that infrastructure and manufactured products meet consistent technical requirements; and that new technologies can be safely introduced into the marketplace. Thousands of these standards are relied upon by governments at every level to protect public health and safety and facilitate commerce. The revised legislation itself notes that more than 23,000 sections of the Code of Federal Regulations incorporate technical and voluntary consensus standards by reference.

Importantly, this system operates without requiring governments and taxpayers to bear the substantial cost of developing and continually updating these technical standards. SDOs finance this work - in significant part - through the publication, sale, and licensing of their copyrighted standards. Those revenues support the ongoing research, technical expertise, stakeholder participation, and consensus processes necessary to keep standards current as technologies and risks evolve.

The revised Pro Codes Act ensures that members of the public can read the codes and standards that have been incorporated into the laws governing them while maintaining the copyright framework that enables SDOs to continue investing in the development and updating of those standards. In doing so, the legislation balances two important public interests: meaningful access to the law and the continued viability of the voluntary consensus standards system.

We commend Representatives Issa and Ross for their work to reach bipartisan agreement on this legislation. **We respectfully urge you to support the revised Pro Codes Act when it is considered by the House Judiciary Committee and to support its passage when it comes before the full House of Representatives.** Please get in touch with Giulia DiGuglielmo (giulia.diguglielmo@mai.house.gov) in Rep. Issa's office or Tom Koester (tom.koester@mail.house.gov) from Rep. Ross' staff to co-sponsor the legislation or request additional information.

In advance, we thank you for your support of this important legislation to ensure continued public confidence in our system of codes and standards and in the ability to sustain and invest in their future development to ensure they remain relevant to evolving technology and societal changes.

American Gas Association (AGA)

American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC)

American Petroleum Institute (API)

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)

Compressed Gas Association (CGA)

Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)

Consumer Technology Association (CTA)

Copyright Alliance

Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI Guidelines)

Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA)

Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA)

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

International Code Council (ICC)

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA)

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA)

Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)

Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE)

