

February 13, 2026

Sen. Jason Barrett
Sen. Albert Butler
Mississippi State Senate
400 High Street
Jackson MS 39201

Re: Opposition to Mississippi House Bill 1730

Dear Chair Barrett and Vice Chair Butler:

On behalf of the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants (IIBEC), an association of design professionals specializing in building enclosure projects, we appreciate the Legislature's attention to the design and performance of public roofs. We have concerns about its practical impact and would like to share our perspective.

IIBEC is an international association representing 3,900 professionals who specialize in roofing, waterproofing, exterior wall design, and building enclosure commissioning. Our members advocate for building owners to ensure projects comply with codes, standards, warranties, and performance requirements.

The bill proposes a minimum roof slope of 3:12 for all new public facilities funded with Mississippi state or local government resources. While this approach aims to standardize design, it mandates a requirement that overrides established US model building codes. Licensed design professionals rely on performance-based solutions tailored to each building's unique structural system, intended use, long-term maintenance requirements, and local climate conditions. Mandating a single slope for all projects limits the ability of licensed design professionals to apply performance-based solutions appropriate to specific building types, and could increase construction costs without clear evidence of improved performance.

The proposed 3:12 slope also differs from standard industry definitions. The *International Building Code* defines low-slope roofs as those under 2:12, and many public buildings, including schools, universities, hospitals, and government facilities, successfully use low-slope or flat roofs when properly designed and installed. These designs meet code, provide durability, and offer flexibility to address building-specific considerations such as drainage, insulation, and structural loads.

Roofing performance varies depending on slope. Low-slope roofs require careful design to prevent ponding, especially in tropical storm conditions, while steeper slopes can increase wind loads, structural demands, building height, and costs. Current model codes already set minimum slope requirements based on roofing system type rather

than a single slope value. Mandating a universal slope could create conflicts with adopted codes, introduce confusion, and undermine established technical standards.

Additionally, this requirement could increase taxpayer costs through added structural framing; wall height adjustments; insulation; heating, ventilating, and air conditioning equipment screening; and potential loss of usable interior space, all without demonstrated performance benefits.

For these reasons, IIBEC urges the Legislature not to adopt the roof slope provisions in House Bill 1730. We are available to serve as a technical resource and would welcome the opportunity to provide additional guidance as you consider this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Pallasch, CAE
Executive Vice President & CEO

cc: Senate Committee on Public Property