

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Jason Barrett
Mississippi Legislature
Chairman, Senate Public Property Committee
Via email to: jbarrett@senate.ms.gov
Re: Mississippi House Bill 1730

Dear Chairman Barrett,

As you consider House Bill 1730, An Act to Create Sections 31-11-37 and 31-11-39 of the Mississippi Code of 1972..., the undersigned **roofing industry and related organizations oppose the bill** as introduced and submit the following concerns regarding the bill's approach and its potential impact on all new public facilities. While the roofing industry supports efforts to protect public buildings, ensure responsible stewardship of public assets, and safeguard taxpayer investment, House Bill 1730 raises significant technical and practical concerns. It should not move forward in its current form.

Specifically, the provision **requiring a minimum roof slope of 3:12 introduces design and compliance risks without technical justification**. This requirement is technically problematic, conflicts with established codes and tested roof assemblies, and should not advance further in the legislative process.

For decades, the roofing industry has helped protect public buildings by participating in the development of **nationally recognized model building codes and standards, including the I-Codes**. The I-Codes establish requirements for structural design, fire safety, wind resistance, and related performance criteria and are regularly updated and adopted by states and municipalities. Mississippi has incorporated these model codes and standards through the Uniform Commercial Code, the 2024 Mississippi Building Code, and the 2024 Residential Code, **reflecting the work already undertaken by state agencies and code officials in Mississippi** to establish appropriate building requirements.

By requiring all new public facilities to use roofs with a minimum slope of 3:12, the legislation introduces a prescriptive requirement that conflicts with Mississippi's adopted commercial, building, and residential codes. This restriction limits the ability of roofing professionals to design and install roof assemblies appropriate to each building and deliver resilient, performance-based roof solutions. This restriction increases the risk of

unintended consequences and higher construction costs without clear evidence of improved performance. **Technical information supporting the removal of this provision is summarized in the attached fact sheet.**

The organizations listed below are **available to serve as technical resources on building performance issues** as the Legislature continues its work in this area. We can also connect legislators with Mississippi-based manufacturers, roofing contractors, and roof design professionals, enabling direct discussions with constituents who design, build, and maintain public facilities across the state.

Accordingly, we respectfully recommend that House Bill 1730 not move forward in its current form and that **future consideration of public facility roof requirements occur through collaboration with industry and local experts** rather than through prescriptive statutory mandates. Please contact Ellen Thorp at ellen@cosur.org if technical assistance or further discussion would be helpful, as these issues are considered going forward.

Sincerely,

Reed B. Hitchcock
Executive Vice President



Jenny Oblock
Executive Director



Ellen Breipohl Thorp
President



Brian Pallasch
Exec. Vice Pres. & CEO



Jeff Henry
Executive Director



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