



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Welcome to the October 2022 issue of *IIBEC Interface*! As you read this message, the 2022 midterm elections are rapidly approaching. If you live in the US, you're probably seeing a lot of political ads and lawn signs from candidates. Maybe you've already voted early or started penciling in your choices on a sample ballot.

While voting in elections is one way that we can help shape the future of our communities, we have other opportunities—and obligations—to ensure that our voices are heard on critical matters. The theme of this *IIBEC Interface* issue is codes and standards. IIBEC members have always been involved with creating standards and influencing various code-making bodies, but IIBEC has recently become more influential in this area through our Codes and Standards Committee, which was formed in 2020. The mission of this committee is to lead and advocate the building enclosure industry's contribution to developing a safe and sustainable built environment through cooperation with and influence over other organizations in the development, preparation, and adoption of codes and standards.

To help advance that mission and strengthen our position in the industry, IIBEC has retained Emily Lorenz, PE, as senior director of technical services. Emily is active in the codes and standards processes at ASHRAE, ASTM International, and the American Concrete Institute, and she is a voting committee member for the 2024 *International Energy Conservation Code*. She is also the staff liaison for IIBEC's Codes and Standards Committee, which has been working on several code change proposals (CCPs) to present to the International Code Council (ICC). This year, Emily, along with many other IIBEC members and industry professionals, helped IIBEC and like-minded professional associations successfully lobby for several CCPs during the initial ICC hearings in Rochester, New York, for Section 1512 (Reroofing) of the *International Building Code* (IBC).

IIBEC is also actively influencing building codes at the state and local levels. For example, the IIBEC Georgia Chapter recently recommended a CCP to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which has jurisdiction for the *Georgia Building Code*. This state building code is currently modeled on the 2018 IBC. Georgia has an annual code amendment cycle, and members of the IIBEC Georgia Chapter attended several meetings with DCA to lobby for similar code changes to Section 1512 in the latest cycle.

Clearly, when it comes to codes and standards, we can—and do—make a difference in our communities. I encourage each of our chapters to research their local code authority and the code amendment process. If local code changes would be beneficial, the chapter can recommend CCPs to policy officials and, where necessary, lobby on behalf of our industry. This is a great way to get engaged in our communities and demonstrate our strength and values.

Speaking of lobbying, IIBEC is also making a difference by shaping public policy. In early 2021, IIBEC retained John Boling to be IIBEC's director of government relations. John, who is located in Washington, DC, has a ton of experience navigating the federal government machine. He also serves on the board of the National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics and is the staff liaison for IIBEC's Advocacy Committee, which champions the public policy interests of IIBEC consultant members. You can read about their efforts in the "Advocacy" articles featured in every issue of *Interface*.

In the short time that John has been with IIBEC, we have developed several policy statements. The goal of each IIBEC policy statement is to provide IIBEC's position on an issue that affects the building enclosure consulting profession—either in a direct or a broad way. The IIBEC Board of Directors reviews and approves these policy statements, which are then used to educate policymakers, the public, and the construction industry. Current policy statements are available for building codes and standards, cool roofs, cooperative purchasing, reverse auctions, qualifications-based selection, and several other issues. You can review them all on the IIBEC website (iibec.org/advocacy/policy-and-position-statements).

If you have concerns about codes and standards, or ideas for improving them, reach out to Emily Lorenz and the Codes and Standards Committee, or contact your local IIBEC chapter. Your chapter, John Boling, and the Advocacy Committee are invaluable resources if you want to get involved in influencing public policies relevant to our industry. And I'm listening, too. I hope you'll let me know how you think IIBEC and its members can continue making a difference.