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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Stakeholders  
**FROM:** Shari Shapiro  
**DATE:** October 4, 2013  
**RE:** Notes from 9/12/2013 Energy Code Stakeholders Meeting

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The inaugural meeting of the Energy Code Collaborative was very productive. There was a general sentiment that this type of forum for addressing energy code issues is needed. A list of attendees is attached as Attachment A.

We discussed a number of issues that could be addressed by an Energy Code Collaborative, and which would be beneficial for Pennsylvania:

- To assist the Commonwealth in meeting their obligations under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA")
- To assist the State Energy Office in their required reporting to the Department of Energy
- To allow Pennsylvania to access future federal funding
- To increase consumer awareness of energy codes
- To benefit consumers through energy/cost savings
- To address political, economic, feasibility and other barriers to energy efficiency
- To address the issues regarding code adoption

The outcome of the meeting was that there is interest in taking the Collaborative forward with the following goals:

- Assist PA in measuring and achieving full compliance with the 2009 Codes as required by Pennsylvania's ARRA commitment;
- Develop ways to educate consumers and incentivize energy efficiency; and

- Creating an ongoing forum for collaborative discussion on energy code adoption, compliance and enforcement issues.

Below is a summary of the discussion:

We had a wide ranging discussion about codes generally, and about compliance, enforcement and adoption of energy codes.

We distributed and briefly reviewed a summary of a PA Gap Analysis that was commissioned by the DEP and executed by the Building Codes Assistance Project. The Gap Analysis identified 31 different issues around energy code adoption and enforcement. A copy of the gap analysis is attached as Attachment B. We also distributed a draft Strategic Compliance Plan for PA.

Penn Future presented a new website, [www.builditsafe.org](http://www.builditsafe.org) that includes information on the status of code adoption in PA, and updates on legislative and regulatory activity related to future code updates.

We discussed Pennsylvania's obligations for energy code compliance resulting from Pennsylvania's acceptance of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "Stimulus"). Pennsylvania must achieve 90% compliance with the 2009 energy code by 2017.

Some of the barriers to compliance the Collaborative identified were:

- 2300 separate municipalities charged with enforcement
- Fragmentation of responsibility amongst architects/engineers, contractors and code officials
- Low priority of the energy code in code inspections
- Lack of technical knowledge, resources and education to assist in compliance and enforcement
- Lack of solid knowledge of the current rate of compliance

We discussed how the Collaborative might be able to help develop metrics and methodologies for measuring compliance.

We discussed incentives, disclosure and other education and policy initiatives that could be undertaken to increase consumer awareness of energy efficiency and buildings. There was consensus that activities to increase consumer awareness are a good idea.

A preliminary list of ideas that the Collaborative may choose to address includes:

- An assessment to determine the current rate of compliance in the state
- The substantial need for more energy code educational opportunities for designers, builders and code enforcement personnel
- Consider financing mechanisms that could drive up compliance rates
- Consider building labeling and disclosure requirements
- Stronger enforcement of current licensure and certification requirements
- Improve consumer awareness (for longer term impact on compliance)

We discussed stakeholders who should be contacted about the next meeting:

- Architects
- Realtors
- Mortgage lenders
- Trades
- Consumer representatives
- Homebuilders
- Insurance

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2013 in Harrisburg at 1:00 pm at a place TBD. The date and time was moved from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> to correspond with the next scheduled RAC meeting.**

Everyone is encouraged to read the PA Gap Analysis and the Strategic Compliance Plan in advance of that meeting. Additional information on Code Compliance Collaboratives in other states can be found on BCAP's website, [OCEAN](#).

A tentative agenda for the next meeting includes:

- Presentation on examples of compliance evaluation processes in other states; potential outcomes for non-compliance
- Discussion of Gap Analysis and Strategic Compliance Plan
- Discussion and agreement on Mission Statement and priorities for the Collaborative
- Discussion and agreement on structure and funding going forward

Suggestions for other topics, agenda items and participants are welcome, and should be forwarded to Shari Shapiro at [sashapiro@cozen.com](mailto:sashapiro@cozen.com).

SS:kn