

James M. Shannon  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

July 31, 2003

Thomas R. Joachim (MN)  
President  
NCSBCS  
505 Huntmar Park Drive, Suite 210  
Herndon, VA 20170

Dear Mr. Joachim:

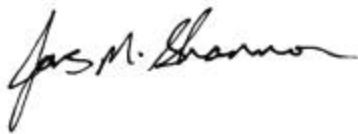
I am responding to your letter of June 27, 2003 requesting that I meet with the CEO of ICC to open a dialogue to resolve past differences and establish a timetable to develop a single family of codes.

NFPA has consistently shown its willingness to discuss matters of mutual interest between our organizations to advance the cause of safety. We have made good faith efforts in the past to come to an agreement with the ICC that could have resulted in a single set of codes. We continued those efforts until the final moments before deciding to proceed with the development of an NFPA building code, hoping for a favorable response to our reasonable proposals. Unfortunately that response never came.

Since proceeding with the development of our building code, NFPA, and the hundreds of volunteers who have participated in our code development process, have expended thousands of hours and enormous effort to develop the nation's first consensus-based model building code. We regard NFPA 5000™, *Building Construction and Safety Code*™, as a great achievement and a significant contribution to the overall goal of safeguarding life and property. Its influence is already being felt, and I am pleased to report that the California Building Standards Commission voted on July 29, 2003, to adopt NFPA 5000, along with NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*™ for the State of California.

That NFPA competes in some areas with the ICC does not, in our view, mean that we cannot engage with the ICC in meaningful discussion and cooperation. NFPA is always willing to talk to likeminded organizations that share our commitment to serving the public. While history would indicate that any quick agreement is unlikely, I have already indicated to the new CEO of ICC, as I did to his predecessor, my willingness to talk about better cooperation between our organizations.

Sincerely,



James M. Shannon  
President and CEO

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