



March 4, 2020

Energy and Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB-05008 Establishment of Voluntary High-Performance Green Building Standards

Dear Chairman Needleman, Chairman Arconti, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I'm writing regarding HB 5008, which would enable municipalities across the state of Connecticut to choose green, high-performance standards for building construction.

As background, I'm Darren Port, manager of Buildings and Communities Solutions for Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP). I specialize in energy codes, stretch codes, and zero energy building policy. NEEP has worked closely with DEEP for many years on several initiatives and offers the State Building Inspector technical assistance related to the state's energy code adoption.

NEEP has assisted seven states (MA, NY, MD, DC, VT, RI, and ME) and several cities (Ithaca, Keene, South Portland) in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic in the creation of original stretch codes or adoption and modification, to meet state-specific needs, of national programs or codes as stretch codes. These stretch codes range from voluntary to required for certain types of buildings or projects. Some of the stretch codes (MA, VT, DC, NYC) will become mandatory base codes by 2030 or sooner.

- New York State's stretch code provides energy savings of 11% over the state's base code. The energy savings equate to real cost savings that improve the affordability of the housing market.
- Massachusetts' stretch code has been adopted by over 271 of 312 communities. MA is currently working on a zero-energy stretch code.

A stretch code goes beyond the energy efficiency requirements of the current national model code or the adopted state building energy code. These advanced building energy codes are becoming more common throughout the nation both as informative guides and as sound policy changes to promote state and community commitments to reduced energy use.

A statewide Stretch Code:

- Provides one state-sanctioned, voluntary building standard for local jurisdictions wishing to achieve efficiency beyond the baseline state energy code.
- Informs architects, engineers, and other building and design professionals looking to build energy-efficient buildings with an appropriate reference.
- Synchronizes criteria for ratepayer-funded energy efficiency, new construction, and renovations programs.
- Establishes criteria for state policies to incentivize high-performance buildings, such as tax credits or utility demand-side management incentives.



- Points the way for changes to future national model codes and zero energy building policies

By directing DEEP to develop a stretch energy code that improves energy efficiency more than the base code, HB-05008 Will offer communities another strategy to meeting the state-mandated greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by lowering the carbon footprint of their building stock. Additionally, a statewide voluntary stretch code will provide the citizens of the state with healthy, resilient, and affordable housing.

As you consider the options to maximize building energy efficiency, NEEP is available to offer our assistance and experience in stretch code adoption and implementation. Please contact me you have questions or would like to discuss how NEEP can be of support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide technical insight related to the adoption of a stretch code for the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Darren Port

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NEEP - Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
81 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421-3137
781-860-9177 Ext.132
dport@neep.org
www.neep.org

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) is a regional non-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate regional collaboration to promote advanced energy efficiency and related solutions in homes, buildings, industry, and communities.

NEEP's Buildings and Community Solutions Team supports the region to increase building energy efficiency by providing technical resources and assistance to states to develop, implement, and comply with building energy codes, among other energy initiatives.