

June 17, 2009

RE: Business and Labor Interim Committee

Good morning committee members. My name is Pete Crow, representing the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) in Utah. I also represent IAPMO in five other western states.

I came here today to report my experience with the effects of SB 211 and my experience with the Uniform Building Code Commission through their advisory committee, the Plumbers Advisory Committee. If you recall in your last Interim Committee meeting a representative of the UBCC testified that they rely heavily on their advisory committees.

On March 23, 2009 I sent a letter to Mr. Dan Jones and the Plumbers Advisory Committee requesting that the committee review the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) before they make their recommendation to adopt a new plumbing code. The Plumbers Advisory Committee had a meeting scheduled for April but it was cancelled. On May 7, 2009 I attended the Plumbers Advisory Committee meeting as my request had been placed on the agenda.

Prior to the meeting Mr. Jones requested I provide them with 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code books and be prepared to discuss any needed amendments that might be needed for the proposed code to work with the other adopted International Codes. I provided complimentary copies of the UPC and brought amendment examples with me to the meeting.

When the Plumbing Advisory Committee Chair announced the order of business I sat at the committee table and was ready to speak to my request. Before I could utter one word Mr. Jones spoke to the committee about the timelines for adopting the codes because of SB 211 and strongly suggested by his comments that they had little time to review the codes and it would be very difficult to get the work done by July for the UBCC so they could make their recommendation at the August Business and Labor Interim Committee meeting. After the ten to fifteen minute discussion I was finally called upon to speak.

I requested the Plumbers Advisory Committee review the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code along with their review of the 2009 International Plumbing Code (IPC) before making their recommendation to the UBCC. I testified that there were 28 states that adopt the Uniform Plumbing Code or another plumbing code and they all work with the International Codes with a few amendments. In fact many Utah state plumbing code amendments would not be needed if the Uniform Plumbing Code were adopted.

A member of the committee commented that with just a quick review he could see the UPC was a better code and as an apprenticeship instructor is was nearly impossible to teach the IPC because of all the references the IPC makes to other books and documents but does not include them and they must be purchased separately. I testified that before I make an important decision such as buying a car every 5 or 6 years I compare cars that are out there. Just because I bought a Chevy last time doesn't mean I'm going to get one this time, I may decide the Ford is the better value. Adopting code is an important decision.

The Plumbers Advisory Committee discussed my request and made a motion to not do a review of the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code for the 2010 legislative session but to do a



review for the 2011 legislative session. Before the vote on the motion I asked for clarification when would the UPC be reviewed. I was told in “about February 2010”.

At this time I am unsure who my complaint about the process is with? Is it with the Legislature because of SB 211, with Department of Commerce, with the UBCC, or with the Plumbers Advisory Committee? All I know for sure is my organization does not feel we are getting due process or fair treatment because our request is being delayed past the time frame for 2009 code adoption and in 2010 someone could easily make a new motion at the Plumbers Advisory Committee or UBCC that there is no need to review the Uniform Plumbing Code because the 2009 International Plumbing Code has been adopted and will be in effect for the next three years.

There seems to be a real problem with the process and with the time lines required to have codes reviewed prior to adoption. It's my hope that the Legislature and the UBCC will work together to correct this situation and establish a clear process that is understandable and allows enough time for proper consideration.

Unless something changes we will be back in August requesting you do not adopt a new plumbing code until the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code has been reviewed. Until we have had due process and properly reviewed the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code we do not believe Utah is being as diligent as it should be with this important code adoption decision. We hope you will seriously consider our comments made today.

Respectfully,

Pete Crow

