

First, I would like to thank the members. They have devoted a considerable amount of their time and money to the goal of developing a workable code for all Pennsylvanians. Without their sacrifices we would be lost in a sea of legislation, trying to correct things legislators don't have time to study or understand. And while you may not get everything you want, you know they have truly considered these codes and how they will affect Pennsylvania, to an extent no one else has or could. They are truly experts doing a very difficult job and I believe they have done it well.

Next, I wish to thank the public. They asked their legislators to find a better way. The Uniform Construction Code is one of the most comprehensive and complicated pieces of legislation produced by the legislature and the fact they have amended the UCC 12 times makes it clear we needed a clearing house for ideas and codes. I believe the public is well served by the UCC and hope that we can make it better, as we move toward a stronger, safer, more efficient future.

Finally, I would like to thank our Counsel. They have been given a tough, thankless, job. It is their charge to make sure that the work we do is compliant with the UCC, and many other laws, some of which we may not even be aware. They have remained calm and steady, when we were unsure of our task and kept us focused on our responsibility and charge.

Now, I must apologize for the delays in arriving at today's hearing of the results. Beginning last winter we had to develop a procedure based on a law not operating as was intended but with a mandate to amend a code with over 4000 pages and 1900 changes. With an engineer's eye, Gig guided us in establishing a procedure we can follow into the future, regardless of if the UCC is changed or how many amendments are made to it. This took time away from the work we must perform every three years but allowed a fair hearing for the many amendments we must consider.

In my opinion, the RAC had two goals when we started. First, we wanted to update the UCC including the improvements available in the 2015 International Codes Council codes while controlling costs with better technologies. Second, we hoped to be able to craft a residential code without all the sections that don't apply in Pennsylvania; either due to our geographic area or changes made by the legislature. Most people are unaware that the UCC references language from 5 codes not just the 2009 IRC, which is our base code. Most of us had hoped to be able to incorporate all of the benefits from the various codes we are following into one simple document.

Unfortunately, the legislature was unable to rescue us from our current path. SB 1023 of 2014 would have given us the time and resources to fix the UCC but came up short when time ran out last fall. Now HB 635, an even better fix, has been delayed resulting in our need to vote on the amendments we have before us and possibly resulting in three more years of limited changes. It is with deep regrets that I now proceed with this voting procedure.