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Dear Committee Members

I have been the radon mitigation instructor for Rutgers University for over 20 years. I have also been an instructor for PA DEP sponsored radon classes as well as EPA sponsored radon research projects. One of my roles is to review the health data from exposure to radon in the creation of course material. Radon is far and away the most dangerous environmental exposure of all the pollutants that are regulated. Exposure to elevated levels increases one risk of lung cancer which is one of the most deadly cancers. The certificate of occupancy for new constructed homes requires ensuring all the required safety features of home are correctly in place and yet nothing is included about radon. Pennsylvania has some of the highest concentrations of indoor radon levels in the world. The state average radon level is over 6 pCi/l when the recommended action level is 4.0. Over 40% of Pennsylvania homes will not pass a 4.0 pCi/l standard. New Jersey, Michigan, Washington, and Minnesota all require builders to install radon piping during new construction.

Presently the IRC includes Appendix F which details what a builder is responsible for in regards to installing radon piping. This is a low cost feature that basically routes 3" PVC piping from the gravel bed under the slab to the roof with room to install a radon fan in the attic at a later date. Unfortunately most builders are ignoring Appendix F because it is not mandated.

- 1) I strongly urge you to have Appendix F included in the IRC as a minimum requirement for all new homes built in Pennsylvania.
- 2) I strongly urge you to mandate that as part of the COI a radon test be performed by a certified individual. A majority of new construction home owners are either un-aware about the risk of radon in their new home or they assume the builder installed a system to get radon levels below the state action level.
- 3) I urge you to not modify the existing Appendix to allow the radon fans be installed in the basement and exhaust at grade.

I have no economic advantage to the request I have made. I sold my residential radon business over a year ago. I speak out of concern for the citizens of Pennsylvania. As a qualified radon mitigation company we installed hundreds of radon systems in new homes and many of these homes had non-powered radon piping and many had levels in the hundreds of pCi/l.

Sincerely

Bill Brodhead
President of WPB Enterprises, Inc.