

Resolution No: 8

Date: May 9, 2003

City: Washington, DC

### NAHB Resolution

Title: Support for a Single Set of Building Codes  
Original Sponsor: Construction, Codes & Standards Committee

WHEREAS, historically the requirements found in building codes have varied greatly among state and local jurisdictions and even among the model codes themselves;

WHEREAS, builders and building product manufacturers have had difficulty dealing with these variations in building code requirements;

WHEREAS, the efficiency of builder operations and building product manufacturing would be greatly improved, without an adverse impact on public health and safety, by the adoption of a single coordinated set of model building codes;

WHEREAS, differences in building code requirements have adversely impacted housing affordability across the United States;

WHEREAS, the achievement of uniform requirements for Fair Housing Accessibility and other construction issues depends heavily on uniform building code requirements;

WHEREAS, the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., the International Conference of Building Officials and the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. have recognized the need for a single coordinated set of national model building codes and established the International Code Council (ICC) in 1994 to undertake that effort;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Home Builders continues to aggressively pursue the development of the International Residential Code (IRC) as a user-friendly, stand-alone residential building code that includes housing affordability as a major determinant in its development and has expended considerable resources working in cooperation with the ICC to achieve its publication and adoption;

WHEREAS, NAHB, representing the home building industry, has developed a strong working relationship with the ICC and now has voting members on the code development committees for the IRC and other International Codes;

WHEREAS, NAHB policy has supported the concept of affordability in building code requirements as well as statewide minimum-maximum codes; and

WHEREAS, NAHB has long been a supporter of the development of reasonable, practical and cost-effective standards to provide for the health and safety of the occupants of homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders support a single coordinated set of national model building codes for jurisdictions choosing to adopt a building code that provides for:

1. Responsible code development procedures as reflected by the current procedures of the International Code Council;
2. Appropriate levels of voting representation by NAHB nominees on code development committees; and
3. A user-friendly, stand-alone residential building code that includes housing affordability as a major determinant in its development, as currently represented by the International Residential Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB will continue to support the adoption of state-enabling legislation that:

1. Calls for the creation of state-wide codes based on a coordinated set of national model building codes developed in accordance with the criteria stated above;
2. Allows state-wide amendments to the model codes to account for jurisdictional differences or to enhance housing affordability by providing cost-effective requirements to provide for the health and safety of the occupants of homes; and
3. Creates statewide minimum-maximum code requirements by recommending that there be no local amendments, which make the code more restrictive or housing less affordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB will continue to oppose any building code or building code provision that is detrimental to the goal of providing decent, safe and affordable housing and that does not include jurisdictional flexibility.

Board of Directors Action:	<b>Approved</b>
Joint Executive/Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Custom Home Builders:	Recommends Approval
Remodelors Council Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Production Builders Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Small Volume Builders Action:	Recommends Approval
Multifamily Council Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval
State & Local Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes & Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval