

Mid-Maine Code Enforcement Officers Association

Shiloh Ring, President
Kenneth Hogate, Vice President
Cynthia Tuttle, Treasurer

January 11, 2008

Ms. Sue Inches, Deputy Director
Maine State Planning Office
184 State Street
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Ms. Inches:

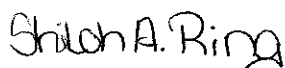
I am writing to you on behalf of the Mid-Maine Code Enforcement Officer's Association. Our Association consists of members from Somerset, Franklin, Northern Kennebec, Southern Piscataquis, Southern Penobscot and Northern Waldo Counties. As President of the Association, I have been asked to convey to you recent action taken by the Association.

At our monthly meeting in January, members of the Mid-Maine Code Enforcement Officer's Association voted not to support Buildings Code Resolve 46 as outlined in the Draft Proposal dated December 31, 2007. Several specific areas of concern were expressed as follows:

- The loss of home rule power that Resolve 46 establishes. In many of our communities there have been multiple town meeting votes that have defeated the enactment of town wide building codes. If Resolve 46 is implemented, a State wide building code will be established and will be mandated on every town in the State of Maine regardless of their previous votes not to adopt a building code. While enforcement of this code may remain voluntary, it will not negate the fact that a building code is being forced onto each community.
- The potential costs that may be incurred as the result of additional training (both direct costs and the indirect costs of time, travel, etc.); as well as the potential loss of revenue to state agencies by towns that currently rely on permit fees as a necessary source of revenue.
- The seeming effect of Resolve 46 to reach beyond the issue of building codes into zoning issues, such as floodplain zoning.
- The potential conflict that Resolve 46 sets up between NFPA 101 and the "T" codes. It has been the position of the Association in the past, consistent with the provisions of the Title 10, MRSA, Section 9703, that the NFPA codes should prevail over other codes. The Association has expressed concern that life/safety must remain the key focus.

Should you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact me at 897-6785, or via email at jceo@jay-maine.org.

Sincerely,



Shiloh A. Ring, President