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September 12, 2014

Jonathan C. Siu, PE, SE, ACO
President
Washington Association of Building Officials
P. O. Box 7310
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Dear Jonathan,

Thank you for taking time to write us and share some of WABO's concerns regarding ICC's proposed Preferred Provider Program. In your letter to ICC Board President Stephen Jones, you identified three principal areas of concern that we would like to address. These three areas include the *Program Development Process*, *the Effect on Chapter Training*, and *Program Details*.

Many of the more general aspects of the program have been presented and discussed in various issues of ICC eNews, the BSJ, and posted on ICC's website. We also initiated outreach efforts which included addressing the ICC membership councils in Memphis and direct communication with ICC Chapters this last June to solicit feedback. Upon review, comments and acceptance by the new Professional Development Council (PDC) this month, we plan to send each Chapter the latest draft. Information on the composition of the PDC and member contact information is available online <http://www.iccsafe.org/Certification/pdc/Pages/default.aspx>.

Concerns Regarding Transparency of Program Development Process

In addition to reaching out directly to ICC Chapters to solicit feedback on the general aspects of the Preferred Provider Program, ICC also created a Stakeholders group to assist in providing feedback for the more detailed aspects of the proposed program. The Stakeholders Group (SG) met several times to review the program details. The review was on a timeline to ensure that the program would be complete enough and available for review and comments by the PDC prior to presenting the information to the Board of Directors at the Fort Lauderdale meeting. The SG was encouraged to further communicate by phone or e-mail with staff on any issues of concern. During the SG meetings, all of the comments were specifically addressed and members were free to discuss them at that time. The primary purpose of the follow-up SG meetings was to address all comments by the group members along with comments received from various ICC chapters. Although the general aspects of the program have been widely and openly communicated, there hasn't been communication of program details since they have still been in development. A release of the program while still in the developmental stage would have been counterproductive since many of the finer points have not been discussed. Also, it is

the intention of ICC that this program and the feedback received from stakeholders is subjected to continued review by the PDC in order to ensure the program is meeting the needs of all the parties.

The initial SG was made up of a sampling of 30 chapters, associations, jurisdictions, private education providers and industry groups. Of that sample, 10 ICC chapters were represented. The intent was to select a sampling of chapters, associations, jurisdictions, education providers, and industry groups that reflected the wide diversity within ICC. Chapters were selected based upon various sizes and geographic locations. At the WABO Annual Meeting this last June, ICC Board Secretary/Treasurer Cash Olszowy and I were given an opportunity to address WABO's Education Committee during one of the breakout sessions regarding the proposed Preferred Provider Program. Feedback from this meeting was very beneficial and useful in helping ICC shape the Preferred Provider Program. We are also expanding our Stakeholder Group and would welcome WABO's participation.

Concerns of the Effect on Chapter Training Programs

One of the concerns raised in your letter was that the Preferred Provider Program may have a negative impact on ICC Chapter training programs. ICC Chapters are critical to the success of ICC and strong Chapters are a reflection of a strong ICC. With that in mind, ICC has been very sensitive to the needs of the Chapters and is designing a program that is user-friendly, economical and provides broader exposure for Chapter training offerings. The program is being designed in a manner that encourages all chapters-- large and small-- to become a Preferred Provider. The fee for Chapters will be very affordable and the process itself user-friendly. The program is being designed in a manner that the economic value that the Chapter would receive as a Preferred Provider would exceed the cost of participation in the program through greater exposure through the ICC website and other venues. In the event a Chapter chooses not to participate, they will continue to have their training courses accepted for a significant amount of CEU requirements. As previously reported, the program is designed to be gradually phased in with only 20% of the required CEU's for renewing ICC certifications required to be from a Preferred Provider or ICC Training for the 2015 calendar year. When the program is fully implemented on July 1, 2016, only 50% of the CEU's would need to come from the Preferred Provider Program or ICC Training. However, it is envisioned that most Chapters will see that the benefits derived from being a Preferred Provider exceed the cost of participation and will opt to join.

Concerns Regarding Program Details

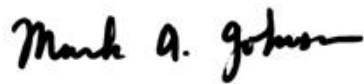
In your letter, you had concerns about the approval process for ICC Chapter course materials and the possibility that a course would not meet the potential approval requirements. Please rest assured that the typical programs currently offered by ICC Chapters to their members would clearly be in compliance with the Preferred Provider Program guidelines being developed. If in the rare event a Preferred Provider submits a course that does not fall into the guidelines of the Preferred Provider Program, the Preferred Provider would be notified within 10 days as to the reason for denial and what steps are necessary to gain approval.

Regarding what needs to be submitted to ICC, the Preferred Provider would need only to submit to ICC a brief description of the course and its length. The goal is to keep this program as simple as possible. The Preferred Provider Program will allow for a wide variety of subjects to be approved, including programs that are state-specific. The Preferred Provider Program is designed to allow for flexibility of course content, course length as well as delivery methods.

To alleviate concerns that the approval process could subject the course material to unauthorized use by others, the course material itself will not be required to be submitted to ICC. As mentioned previously, ICC would only require the Provider to submit to ICC a brief description of the course and its length and not course material, which will continue to be the property of the Preferred Provider.

Thank you for your interest and comments regarding the Preferred Provider Program. I believe we share the same educational goals and concerns. I believe many of the concerns by WABO are being addressed through the feedback received. That said we would welcome the opportunity to meet with WABO again to discuss any concerns or provide additional clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark A. Johnson
Executive Vice President &
Director of Business Development

cc: Stephen D. Jones, CBO, ICC Board President
Guy Tomberlin, ICC Board Vice President
Dominic Sims, ICC CEO
Kraig Stevenson, Senior Regional Manager

MJ/ct