

Support H.R. 4072 – The Pro Codes Act

Protect the Code Development Process and Copyright for Safety Standards

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- The Pro Codes Act (H.R. 4072), introduced by Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Deborah Ross (D-NC) will protect American lives, property, and economic competitiveness by ensuring the continued development and updating of world-class safety codes and standards.
 - The International Code Council (ICC) and other non-profit standards development organizations (SDOs) develop rigorous national codes and standards through a consensus-based process at no cost to taxpayers.
 - The current standards development system has been effective and efficient for 125 years.
 - Officials at the federal, state, local, and municipal levels depend on the expertise of SDOs by often incorporating codes and standards into the laws they enact. The result has saved lives, fostered economic growth and innovation, and generated billions in taxpayer savings.
 - Recent court decisions have undermined the development of top-quality safety codes. These decisions enabled for-profit companies—which contribute nothing to the code development process—to sell unpermitted and erroneous copies of these codes.
 - These companies contend that the government incorporation of a code into law forfeits copyright protection, effectively dismantling the public-private standards development system.
 - The passage of the bipartisan Pro Codes Act will ensure the continued production of high-quality standards and codes that are integral to the functioning of American society.
 - H.R. 4072 clarifies that a standard does not lose its copyright protection by being incorporated by reference into a law or regulation, provided that the standard is available for free viewing on a publicly accessible website.
 - This solution will enable the American people to access codes and standards that affect their daily lives at no cost, while preserving the efficient, effective, and self-funded public-private standards development system.
 - America’s fire service organizations and building, healthcare, and engineering professionals support the Pro Codes Act. Thanks to these continuously improved codes and standards, our homes, workplaces, schools, and hospitals are safer, more sustainable, and more resilient. Passing the Pro Codes Act will ensure this work continues.