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NASEO Board of Directors Resolution for Energy Efficient Building Codes

WHEREAS, State and Territory Energy Offices have long recognized the importance of energy efficiency in the development of a successful national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, homes and commercial buildings are America's largest energy-consuming sector – using over 40 percent of the nation's energy and 75 percent of its electricity; and

WHEREAS, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is the most widely used model code for residential construction in the U.S., establishing efficiency baselines that are voluntarily adopted by over 40 states; and

WHEREAS, the IECC is currently undergoing a review and revision process of the 2009 IECC, culminating in final votes by International Codes Council (ICC) Government Members represented by code and other officials from cities, counties and states in the fall of 2010; and

WHEREAS, calls to increase residential efficiency by 30 percent have been included in legislation that has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and have been supported by the Western Governors Association, ASHRAE, the U.S. EPA/DOE National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, the American Institute for Architects, the Business Roundtable, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and by leaders in Congress from both parties; and

WHEREAS, the broad-based Energy Efficient Codes Coalition has compiled a series of efficiency improvements into a comprehensive package of recommendations known as "The 30% Solution 2012" and submitted it for adoption; and

WHEREAS, support for The 30% Solution 2012 comes from a diverse cross-section of energy efficiency professionals, including the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, electric utilities (investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and rural electric cooperatives), low income housing advocates, and others; and

WHEREAS, the 30% Solution 2012 incorporates readily available "state-of-the-shelf" technologies and reasonable building practices that are proven to generate substantial energy cost savings to homeowners; and

WHEREAS, studies show that these energy efficiency improvements enhance the affordability and security of home ownership by generating net positive cash flow for homeowners; and

WHEREAS, at its first round of code development hearings, the IECC Development Committee took significant preliminary steps for energy efficiency, recommending the adoption of proposals that could increase both residential and commercial efficiency of the 2012 IECC by 30% over the baseline 2006 IECC; and

WHEREAS, at its Final Action Hearings this fall in Charlotte, N.C., the ICC voting representatives, made up primarily of state and municipal code officials, will consider these Development Committee recommendations and will vote to establish the 2012 IECC; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the voting membership of the ICC puts states in a unique position to encourage their eligible voting members and eligible code officials from their cities to participate in the ICC deliberations and vote for the full package of efficiency measures outlined in The 30% Solution 2012; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 IECC will strongly influence energy efficiency performance over the 70-80 year life of millions of U.S. homes expected to be built over the next four years (when the succeeding 2015 IECC will be adopted), which makes the adoption of The 30% Solution 2012 critical to reducing America's new home energy use,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Energy Officials endorses the full adoption of The 30% Solution 2012 at the ICC's Final Action Hearings this October in Charlotte, and encourages broad state and municipal support for all eligible members and code officials to attend these hearings and to vote in favor of the adoption of The 30% Solution 2012.

Adopted by the NASEO Board, July 8, 2010.