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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES

- - -

PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

AT ABOUT 9:12 A.M.

- - -

MICHIGAN LIBRARY & HISTORICAL CENTER
MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER, FIRST FLOOR FORUM
702 W. KALAMAZOO STREET
LANSING, MICHIGAN

- - -

RE: Administrative Rules for Construction Codes
Part 5. Residential Code
Rule Set 2022-16 LR

- - -

HEARING FACILITATOR:

TONY WILLIAMSON
Bureau of Construction Codes
P.O. Box 30254
Lansing, Michigan 48909

- - -

REPORTED BY: Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315

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1 Lansing, Michigan

2 Thursday, March 21, 2024

3 At 9:12 a.m.

4 - - -

5 (Public hearing commenced pursuant to due notice.)

6 MR. WILLIAMSON: Good morning. We will
7 now start our public hearing.

8 My name is Tony Williamson, and I'm a
9 Department Analyst for the Bureau of Construction Codes
10 in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. I
11 will be conducting the hearing today.

12 This is a public hearing on proposed
13 administrative rules entitled "Part 5 Residential Code-
14 Rule Set 2022-16 LR". We are conducting this hearing
15 under the authority of the Administrative Procedures Act,
16 Public Act 306 of 1969, and on behalf of the Department
17 of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of
18 Construction Codes.

19 We are calling this hearing to order at
20 9:14 a.m. on March 21, 2024, at the Michigan Library &
21 Historical Center, First Floor Forum, 702 West Kalamazoo
22 Street, Lansing, Michigan 48915. The notice of public
23 hearing was published in the *Michigan Register*, Issue
24 #3-2024, on March 15, 2024, and in the following
25 newspapers of general circulation: The Morning Sun and
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1 Oakland Press on February 28, 2024, and the Mining
2 Journal on February 26, 2024.

3 Please know, we are here today to receive
4 comments or suggestions on the proposed rules. Please
5 make sure that they relate directly to the proposed rules
6 and reasons why the changes would be in the public
7 interest. If you wish to speak, make sure you have
8 signed in and have indicated that you wish to speak. We
9 will call on speakers in the order in which names are
10 listed on the sign-in sheet. Each speaker is limited to
11 three minutes and only allowed one time to speak during
12 the public hearing. We are here to receive comments
13 only. For those making comments today, please clearly
14 state and spell your name slowly for the record, and if
15 you are speaking on behalf of an organization, please
16 identify that organization as well.

17 If you have already submitted comments to
18 the Department in writing or by email, those comments
19 will be considered in the same manner as the comments
20 made during the public hearing today. If you have
21 written comments, you may submit them directly to me.
22 The Department will also accept written comments
23 postmarked or emailed until 3/21/2024 at 5:00 p.m. Thank
24 you.

25 All right. Mr. Bert Gale.

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1 BERT GALE: Good morning. I'm Bert Gale,
2 I'm a building official, electrical inspector for
3 numerous jurisdictions, including two counties and cities
4 and townships and villages, also a member of the
5 International Association of Electrical Inspectors. I
6 just want to support the idea that the removal of the
7 electrical portions of, that have been in the Michigan
8 Residential Code be removed for the next adoption -- for
9 this new adopted Residential Code. It causes all kinds
10 of confusion with contractors and myself and probably all
11 my counterparts are always dealing with and have been
12 dealing with, well, for a couple decades now, since the
13 year 2000 when the first Michigan Residential Code was
14 adopted. So I just want to be on record that I support
15 the removal of the electrical sections in this proposed
16 Residential Code.

17 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir. Robert
18 Williams.

19 ROBERT WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is
20 Robert Williams, I am here representing Sprinklers Local
21 704, and I am here to talk in favor of adopting and
22 adding in the R 408.30539a, automatic fire sprinklers.
23 With my background in installation and maintenance
24 (inaudible) --

25 COURT REPORTER: Okay. If you're
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1 reading, please slow down.

2 ROBERT WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. With my
3 background in, and in installation and maintenance of
4 fire sprinkler systems for the last 23 years, along with
5 being a member of the Michigan Fire Safety Board on my
6 second term, I feel I can safely weigh in on this topic.
7 If I was to ask somebody to tell me how long a person
8 would have to exit a burning home, I'm guessing most
9 people would say about five minutes, when in reality
10 it's, it currently sits at two minutes. Anywhere between
11 three and five minutes you would you have flashover which
12 can read over 1,000 degrees.

13 With modern building materials used in
14 today's homes, homes now burn faster and hotter and also
15 create a toxic gas called hydrogen cyanide. From the
16 burning -- and hydrogen cyanide begins to be produced at
17 600 degrees Fahrenheit and can be transmitted through
18 inhalation and dermal absorption. A person who has acute
19 cyanide poisoning has little or no chance of survival.
20 If a person is able to escape their home with a mild case
21 of cyanide poisoning, there is going to be a permanent
22 neurological disability which can lead to Parkinson's
23 according to the National Library of Medicine. Even our
24 first responders who go into and around home fires have
25 the inherent risk of poisoning to which they have to

1 drink a substance to counter the effects of the poison,
2 but can have longterm effects that will add costs to
3 municipalities and to care for them.

4 So with all this being said, the average
5 home in Michigan is 1,700 square feet, and the cost for
6 sprinklers is \$1.35 a square foot, which roughly equates
7 to \$3,000 for the cost of their next washer and dryer
8 combo. So I ask you this: What do you think a life is
9 worth? Thank you.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Joe Troutt.

11 JOE TROUTT: Good morning. My name is
12 Joe Troutt, T-r-o-u-t-t, I'm with Local 704 Sprinkler
13 Fitters Detroit. I had some prepared statements, but I
14 think I'm just going to wing it here. I'm just going to
15 stand and want to be put on record as Section R
16 408.30539a, that I believe that it should be not
17 rescinded. You know, a lot of it comes down to cost and
18 what that cost is for, to install.

19 When we take into consideration the cost
20 of that lost home and housing shortage, that lost home
21 affects it in twofold. (1) We lost a home in the housing
22 supply, and (2) we have a family that is in need of a
23 home, so we compound that by losing that home. We have
24 an opportunity right now to go forward and make things
25 better to where we don't have a full loss of home. With

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1 residential sprinklers, you're going to average discharge
2 of 11 gallons per minute, as opposed to a fire department
3 is going to discharge 500 gallons per minute, which would
4 effectively be a loss of the full home. Those 11 gallons
5 per minute from the residential sprinkler are going to be
6 directed to the fire, to the hazard, allowing for greater
7 safety and less loss of home. I appreciate your time.

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir. Greg
9 Herman.

10 GREG HERMAN: Greg Herman, I represent
11 Sprinkler Fitters Local 704. I stand here today to ask
12 that R 408.30538 -- I'm sorry -- 5039a not be rescinded.
13 Residential fire sprinklers are a life safety device.
14 With a residential fire sprinkler system, 80 percent less
15 fatality rate. As mentioned before, the national average
16 is \$1.35 per square foot. Putting a price on a person's
17 life is not worth it. The argument that it's going to be
18 too costly for an affordable home is a false statement.
19 I recommend that we do not rescind this. Thank you.

20 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir. Gerald
21 O'Conner.

22 GERALD O'CONNER: Good morning. My name
23 is Gerald O'Conner, and I represent Eaton Corporation.
24 Eaton supports Michigan to update from the 2015 edition
25 of the Michigan Residential Code to the 2023 Michigan

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1 Electrical Code which will apply the electrical
2 requirements to the 2023 National Electrical Code.

3 Eaton currently employs over 1,400
4 employees at eight locations across the state, including
5 our vehicle group headquartered in Galesburg and
6 aerospace facilities in Jackson and Grand Rapids. Our
7 employees develop, manufacture, and sell safe and
8 reliable electrical equipment. Our workforce provides
9 market-leading electrical solutions used in general
10 construction, performing to the highest standards of
11 safety and reliability. Many of these products are
12 installed in homes, commercial buildings, industrial
13 facilities, and utilities across Michigan.

14 We commend Michigan for moving forward
15 with the adoption process of the 2023 edition of the NFPA
16 70 National Electrical Code. Current codes produce safer
17 and more economically prosperous communities. Eaton has
18 long supported timely and unamended adoption of the
19 National Electrical Code by state and local
20 jurisdictions. We believe that adoption of the most
21 current edition of the NEC promotes a uniform and
22 up-to-date standard of safety for all occupants in the
23 built environment. Thank you for your time and
24 consideration in this important matter.

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir. David
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1 Williams.

2 DAVID WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name
3 is David Williams, and I'm from the International
4 Association of Electrical Contractors, Michigan Chapter,
5 and I speak in support of the rule set that was developed
6 by the Bureau of Construction Codes. The National
7 Electrical Code has been published every three years
8 since 1897, and receives thousands of public inputs to
9 revise the Code each code cycle. The electrical industry
10 has seen so many changes in the past decade, and the
11 trend doesn't seem to be slowing down. New technology
12 like digital electricity, fault-managed power, limited
13 energy wiring installations, increased use of the medium
14 voltage installations, the ever-changing electrical
15 vehicle and alternative energy requirements, DC
16 generation and distribution, and on and on. Currently
17 there are -- currently we are on the 2015 edition of the
18 Michigan Residential Code. That standard has electrical
19 requirements that are based on the 2014 National
20 Electrical Code; and the proposals to submit for the 2014
21 National Electrical Code had to be submitted October of
22 2011, so the requirements that we have in Michigan are
23 based on technology that was 13 years ago.

24 I started my an electrical apprenticeship
25 in 1974, 50 years ago, and for the first 26 years we only

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1 had one electrical code in Michigan, and in 2000, we
2 added the Michigan Electrical Code -- excuse me -- the
3 Michigan Residential Code, and there was -- when we just
4 had the one electrical code, there was really no
5 confusion throughout the state. By having two electrical
6 codes, they do not match, and in a lot of installations,
7 there are -- the National Electrical Code covers all
8 installations, the Michigan Residential Code does not,
9 and it's created a lot of confusion and a lot of
10 heartache for a lot of installers, as well as inspectors,
11 and trying to remember which edition that you're actually
12 either installing or enforcing makes it very difficult
13 for all our installers throughout. So if you would have
14 asked somebody who's building a home nowadays if they
15 thought, felt that their home was being built according
16 to a current standard, they would almost expect that in
17 Michigan, and in reality, it's over 13 years old, that
18 technology.

19 We have about 6,000 public inputs that
20 occur in each code cycle, and we're three code cycles
21 behind with residential installations. When we had
22 the -- we had arc faults in the 20 -- 2002 and 2000 --
23 excuse me -- 2002 and 2005 Michigan Electrical Code, and
24 in the 2008 code, the Home Builders Association came at
25 the last minute and said it was going to cost so much

1 money, and in reality, after reviewing the areas that it
2 had added, it would have been less than \$137, but the
3 Home Builders Association said it would cost about
4 thousands of dollars to have arc faults in those areas.

5 COURT REPORTER: Arc faults?

6 DAVID WILLIAMS: Pardon me?

7 COURT REPORTER: Is it arc faults?

8 DAVID WILLIAMS: Arc fault circuit
9 interrupters, AFCIs for short. I think my time's up.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir.

12 DAVID WILLIAMS: I also have some
13 petitions that were signed. I'll give those to you.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Joel Tobias.

16 JOEL TOBIAS: Joel Tobias, electrical
17 inspector, City of Livonia. And I also would like to
18 have the MRC electrical division part of the MRC removed
19 and go to the NEC, Michigan Residential -- or Michigan
20 Electrical Code. It's just way too much, and I bet half
21 of my contractors don't even have an MRC, so why have the
22 code if they don't even have the code book to go to.

23 And my second comment is that is that, on
24 a state level, I'm very disappointed. We came in here
25 today, our state flag and our national flag are on the

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1 wrong sides, and we never took time to honor this great
2 country. Thank you.

3 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir. Jeffrey
4 Bowdell.

5 JEFFREY BOWDELL: Good morning. Jeff
6 Bowdell from the City of Farmington, a 35-year building
7 official. I'm also the legislative person for the Code
8 Officials Conference of Michigan, an organization with
9 about 175 members. These comments are mine, not the
10 Organization's.

11 I really don't think individual
12 alteration requests of the Code should be taken up at
13 this level, but rather the alterations to the Code should
14 be done at the national level, that they have
15 (inaudible), you know, I guess they're going up twice a
16 year to argue about things. Nationally, the code
17 process, you know, kind of works, it takes into account
18 the cost implications, takes into account all the safety.
19 There's really no good reason to rehash code changes at
20 this level. It seems that the individual groups that I
21 say don't get what they want at the national level come
22 back here and push our legislature to accept something
23 that nationally has been voted on and is already in the
24 best interest of the general public. The, you know, why
25 should Michigan accept a different standard, supposedly

1 because it's just less expensive? Do our residents
2 deserve to have a lesser standard, and again, just
3 because of cost?

4 The 2001 Code has been accepted
5 throughout the country, you know, we're a little behind,
6 and again, why should we be doing something different for
7 our, the Michiganders here in our state. Not going
8 through this process would give us the ability to stay
9 more current in our code adoption process. And, again,
10 the National Code is something that if you put it in code
11 book, it's in the code book, and then we could just adopt
12 it instead of arguing about -- I went to a code hearing
13 25-30 years ago, and, in Michigan, nationally, and the --
14 they are argued for five hours about stair geometry. I
15 mean that's ridiculous. The whole country has one stair
16 geometry, we have a different one. Why? So I really
17 think that all this should be done outside of this venue,
18 and that we should have a faster code adoption process
19 when it does come time to review the code. Thank you.

20 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Paul Waug.

21 PAUL WAUG: Yeah. Good morning, and
22 thank you for doing this for us. Just a few comments.
23 I'm an electrician from Farmington, and I won't repeat
24 anything.

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Sir, I'm sorry, could we
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1 have your name.

2 PAUL WAUG: Yeah, Paul Waug, electrician
3 from Farmington. I won't repeat anything, I'll just hand
4 you this when I get done. I would like to see that the
5 state remove the electrical requirements for the Part 5
6 Michigan Residential Code and incorporate by reference
7 Part 8 Michigan Electric Code. A single electric code
8 would reduce costs for the industry, a single electric
9 code would enhance uniformity, application of electric
10 safety requirements across the state for inspectors,
11 electricians, and contractors. And the rest of my
12 comments were already repeated, but I'll hand that to
13 you. Put it on file, please.

14 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

15 PAUL WAUG: Thank you.

16 MR. WILLIAMSON: Doug Scott.

17 DOUG SCOTT: Name is Doug Scott, I'm an
18 electrical inspector in multiple jurisdictions. I'm up
19 here just to announce that I would like to have the 2023
20 National Electrical Code adopted and used as one code for
21 the State of Michigan, get rid of the MRC, you know, code
22 on that and, you know, get up to the current standards
23 with the Michigan Residential Code; usually that lags
24 years behind in technology that's out there today for the
25 electrical codes, and the up-to-date electrical codes are

1 usually standard with what's going on out there in the
2 field. That's all I have to say.

3 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. John Stoudt.

4 JOHN STOUDT: Good morning. Thank you
5 for doing this. My name is John Stoudt, I'm a registered
6 electrical inspector, also serve on the International
7 Association of Electrical Inspectors Board. And I would
8 like to see the MRC removed and the NEC be adopted.
9 There's no reason for us to have a separate standard than
10 the rest of the nation. Well, thank you.

11 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir. Paul
12 Kaiser.

13 PAUL KAISER: Good morning. My name is
14 Paul Kaiser, K-a-i-s-e-r. I work for Schneider Electric,
15 I'm here on behalf of Schneider, as well as I serve on
16 the Board for the IEEEI. I am in support of removing Part
17 5 of the MRC, electrical section of the MRC and referring
18 back to using one code, the NEC.

19 First of all, I want to commend the State
20 of Michigan for adopting the 2023 National Electric Code.
21 There's two main reasons I think, compelling reasons to
22 remove the electrical section; one being, as already
23 stated, there are technologies that we have developed and
24 we are designing, installing, and energizing today that
25 were not around in the 2014 cycle, so the MRC doesn't

1 speak to the, some of the technologies and equipment that
2 we are installing and energizing today in Michigan. And
3 the second reason, as also noted by others, I think
4 there's substantial value for all of us in having one
5 code, one governing rule set for consistency in the State
6 of Michigan. Thank you.

7 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Jeff Yaroch.

8 JEFF YAROCH: Good morning. My name is
9 Jeff Yaroch, I'm a former fire fighter with 27 years of
10 experience in (inaudible) fire services as a battalion
11 chief. I'm also an attorney, and I served in the state
12 legislature for six years as a state representative
13 representing my area.

14 I'm here to support keeping the
15 residential fire sprinkler requirements in the code. For
16 all the reasons that have been offered for the fact of
17 supporting having this lifesaving equipment in, I
18 support, and so I'm not going to reiterate those points.

19 I do want to comment on some of the
20 opposition statements I've heard. It has been noted in
21 some of those opposing fire sprinklers that fire deaths
22 and casualties occur in old housing with inadequate or
23 nonfunctioning smoke detectors. We should not lose sight
24 of the fact that the old housing they speak of was once
25 new housing, and had it we required these older homes to

1 have been built years ago with sprinklers, the research
2 would support that many of those fire deaths would not
3 have happened.

4 As a former state representative, I
5 understand that there are many facets to issues. I
6 realize we have a housing crisis shortage. The housing
7 shortage has been cited as a reason to not require
8 residential (inaudible) --

9 COURT REPORTER: Please slow down.

10 JEFF YAROCH: (Inaudible.)

11 COURT REPORTER: I didn't even understand
12 what you just said.

13 JEFF YAROCH: May I reclaim my time? I'm
14 sorry, but I don't want to lose time in the --

15 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

16 COURT REPORTER: But I have to write you
17 down.

18 JEFF YAROCH: Okay, I appreciate that.

19 As a former state representative, I
20 understand that there are many facets to issues. I
21 realize we have a housing shortage. The housing shortage
22 has been cited as a reason not to require residential
23 sprinklers. While increased construction costs has been
24 cited as having an effect on the housing shortage, my
25 research finds that there are far more issues, such as

1 population growth, increased cost of land, labor
2 shortages, material shortages, et cetera; and one of the
3 most significant issues in -- is high interest rates.
4 Just yesterday the Federal Reserve Board voted to not
5 lower interest rates. If we want to make an issue of
6 what really is affecting the housing shortage, maybe we
7 should be reaching out to the federal government on this.
8 It is absurd to think that whether we include the
9 lifesaving equipment or not is going to drastically
10 change the landscape of our housing shortage.

11 While I am a fire service professional,
12 and I would like to see full residential fire sprinkler
13 requirements adopted, drawing on my legislative
14 experience, again, I've learned that half a loaf is
15 better than no loaf. During the 2021-22 legislative
16 session, I introduced House Bill 6304. House Bill 6304
17 requires sprinklers in each path of egress from the
18 dwelling, included -- including, but not limited to,
19 hallways and stairwells as the minimum requirement for
20 residential sprinklers. My life experience has been that
21 we often found fire victims in the path of egress
22 attempting to escape the fire. Also, hallways and
23 stairways are the most likely pathway for fire to spread
24 through a dwelling. From a pragmatic sense, it would cut
25 the cost of installation to roughly in half, while

1 maintaining sprinklers in the most critical locations.
2 As I said, I understand that we can find a common ground
3 between all the parties on this.

4 Let me speak as an attorney. As an
5 attorney, I would say life is priceless, and I consider
6 my two daughters and my wife priceless, but when we talk
7 about wrongful death, wrongful death claims are about a
8 million dollars or more per life. So in my home, my
9 \$300,000 home, there's \$4 million of, over, of life
10 value. So -- and every year I spend \$600 in home
11 insurance to protect my \$300,000 value. It seems
12 reasonable to spend two -- \$1.50 per square foot to
13 protect for a lifetime that's \$4 million worth of value.

14 Again, I hope that we can find common
15 ground on this and maintain residential sprinklers in the
16 Code. Thank you for your consideration. (Handing
17 paperwork to reporter.)

18 COURT REPORTER: That would be great,
19 because I only got half of what you said.

20 JEFF YAROCH: I understand. I only get
21 three minutes.

22 COURT REPORTER: I know, but I have to
23 write it. I'm going to use this.

24 MR. WILLIAMSON: I will email you a copy
25 of it.

1 (Yaroch paperwork taken by Mr. Williamson.)

2 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Bob Filka.

3 BOB FILKA: Good morning. I'm Bob Filka,
4 CEO of the Home Builders Association of Michigan. Just a
5 couple quick things to respond to a couple of the folks
6 that have spoke so far.

7 On sprinklers, sprinkler requirements
8 have been in the model codes for a long, long time. The
9 State of Michigan, democrat and republican
10 administrations have rejected them, only two states in
11 the country require them throughout the entire house, so
12 to suggest somehow that it's something that should
13 automatically be adopted is a false statement.

14 I would also say the electrical folks
15 that have testified today, they're lobbying to the wrong
16 group. They need to get the law changed. The state
17 legislature approved a law requiring a combined Michigan
18 Residential Code that combines all of the various codes
19 into one document for use by the residential construction
20 industry. Lobby the legislature. Through an
21 administrative process, you can't change the law.

22 LARA has proposed code changes that
23 violate state law, it has failed to provide statutorily
24 required answers in its regulatory impact statement for
25 this rule set. In fact, it's failed to provide the very

1 same information it demands from someone proposing a
2 modification here today. If you haven't read LARA's RIS,
3 they handed it out today. You'll only see explanations
4 and some attempt to answer these questions as it relates
5 to Chapter 11, the energy efficiency section of the MRC.
6 What about the other 43 chapters in the MRC that are
7 being modified? LARA says essentially nothing about
8 these other significant changes. And as people have
9 already testified here today, obviously sprinklers and
10 AFCIs are a significant change. These requirements, like
11 I said, were removed by previous administrations, yet
12 LARA provides no explanation whatsoever as to why now
13 they've been included.

14 In two of our proposed changes we are
15 submitting today, you will see new data that not only
16 reiterates what other prior administrations took as fact,
17 but new research showing that tripping incidents from
18 AFCIs are a major problem and arguably increase dangers
19 in a household.

20 Lastly, in our stack of materials we've
21 also proposed a change to include the actual electrical
22 related changes in the text of the MRC. Your draft only
23 includes it as a reference. This again fails to
24 comply with state law.

25 Thanks for your time today. And I would

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1 just simply lastly say that by calling this a public
2 hearing does not make it so. One of the other things
3 LARA has done is it has failed to comply with the APA.
4 Simply because you used this process for other codes that
5 have recently been adopted and no one objected doesn't
6 make it legal. You violated the APA, and we actually
7 recommend that you start over and follow the guidance and
8 the law as the legislature intended. Thanks.

9 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Beau Burten.

10 BEAU BURTEN: Beau, B-e-a-u, Burten. I'm
11 here representing the Detroit Electrical Industry
12 Training Center, IBEW Local 58 out of Detroit, as well as
13 the Southeast Chapter of, Southeast Michigan Chapter of
14 the National Electrical Contractors Association. All
15 three of these organizations stand in support of removing
16 Part 5 from the Michigan Residential Code and would like
17 to incorporate by reference Part 8 of the Michigan
18 Electrical Code in replacement of that.

19 I would also like to stand against any
20 attempt to rescind Article 210.12 of the National
21 Electric Code as adopted into the Michigan Electric Code.
22 This is a requirement for arc fault circuit interrupters,
23 which are a known lifesaving device. They are generally
24 being opposed by only one organization in this state,
25 which is the Michigan Home Builders Association, for

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1 really what amounts to some nuisance tripping. As
2 previously stated, I find that to be much less of a
3 nuisance than losing a child, a loved one, or somebody
4 else in this state. So to have a little bit of nuisance
5 tripping, which did occur early on when these were first
6 adopted in 1999, which have since been rescinded in the
7 State of Michigan, we are one of two states that does not
8 require arc fault circuit interrupters, leaving ourselves
9 and our homes really in danger for the leading cause of
10 fires, which is arcing electrical faults. It's estimated
11 we could eliminate about 50 percent of the electrical
12 fires with the arc fault circuit interrupter. We're
13 talking about 25,000 fires each year between the years
14 2017 and 2019, hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries,
15 and a billion dollars in property. We could possibly cut
16 that in half with the use of arc fault circuit
17 interrupters.

18 Many of the problems associated with the
19 arc fault is the Michigan Home Builders' poor
20 installation practices, that they were pushing it too
21 fast. If they'd actually install it properly, they would
22 not have the problems they do with the device. A
23 properly trained installer will not have the nuisance
24 tripping that an improperly trained installer would have.
25 Thank you for your time today.

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1 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Chris
2 Cleveland.

3 CHRIS CLEVELAND: Good morning. I'm
4 Chris Cleveland, C-h-r-i-s, Cleveland, just like the
5 city. I am the current president of the International
6 Association of Electrical Inspectors, Michigan Chapter,
7 and an electrical inspector for the University of
8 Michigan. I support removing the electrical requirements
9 in the Michigan Residential Code; they are outdated and
10 incomplete.

11 The Michigan Electrical Code is the
12 National Electrical Code by reference, as stated in Part
13 8 Electrical Code Rule 801.1. The National Electrical
14 Code is the most widely used code in the United States.
15 It is the installation code used in all 50 states and all
16 U.S. territories, and is used in numerous other
17 countries. A uniform code was the catalyst of the very
18 first National Electrical Code.

19 Article 90.2 in the National Electrical
20 Code, 2a, says practical safeguarding, and states that
21 the purpose of the Code is the practical safeguarding of
22 persons and property from hazards arising from the use of
23 electricity. That is the very least we can allow in the
24 State of Michigan. Our labor force, our first
25 responders, and all of our citizens and visitors deserve

1 practical safeguarding from the dangers arising from the
2 use of electricity.

3 I support removing the electrical rules
4 from the Michigan Residential Code, and I ask for your
5 support, too. I also have several signatures of
6 professionals in the electrical industry in Michigan that
7 also support removing those rules. Thank you.

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Evan Detone.

9 EVAN DETONE: Good morning. My name is
10 Evan Detone, E-v-a-n D-e-t-o-n-e, and I'm here on behalf
11 of myself, a Michigan resident from Lake Orion, Michigan.
12 I want to be on record supporting the removal of the
13 electrical requirements from Part 8 of -- or Part 5 of
14 the Michigan Residential Code, and I want to incorporate
15 by reference the Part 8 Michigan Electrical Code.

16 I think having a unified electrical code
17 across all buildings throughout the state is the way to
18 go. The current setup of having two different codes is
19 confusing and potentially dangerous. With new emerging
20 technologies such as electrical vehicles, solar, and all
21 sorts of other things like wind, the newer electrical
22 codes, you know, the new National Electrical Codes that
23 come out each, you know, every three years incorporate
24 these new technologies, whereas now we're looking at, you
25 know, old codes pointing to, you know, even older codes,

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1 it just becomes confusing and potentially dangerous. So
2 I think the state should remove the two separate codes
3 and have one unified code for the state. Thank you very
4 much.

5 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

6 If there are no further comments at this
7 time, I hereby declare this hearing closed. The record
8 will remain open until 3/21/2024 at 5:00 p.m. for any
9 other comments you may wish to share about the proposed
10 rules.

11 Thank you for attending.

12 (Public hearing concluded at 9:54 a.m.)

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1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
2 COUNTY OF MACOMB)

3 I, Lori Anne Penn, certify that this
4 transcript consisting of 28 pages is a complete, true,
5 and correct record, to the best of my ability, of the
6 Public Hearing held in the captioned matter on Thursday,
7 March 21, 2024.

8 I further certify that I am not
9 responsible for any copies of this transcript not made
10 under my direction or control and bearing my original
11 signature.

12 I also certify that I am not a relative
13 or employee of or an attorney for a party; or a relative
14 or employee of an attorney for a party; or financially
15 interested in the action.

16
17
18 March 28, 2024
Date

Lori Anne Penn
Lori Anne Penn, CSR-1315
Notary Public, Macomb County, Michigan
My Commission Expires June 15, 2025