

BUILDWITHSTRENGTH.COM

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING EDITION

STOPPING TALL WOOD THROUGH MODEL CODE

NEW JERSEY (STATEWIDE) | PHILADELPHIA, PA | LOS ANGELES, CA

Model Code language

This model code would affect multi-residential structures built with light-frame wood, defined as:

- Light-frame: Vertical, horizontal, and/or load-bearing elements are primarily made from combustible materials, including all wood truss and joist construction.
- Multi-residential: R-occupancy structures containing more than two sleeping or dwelling units. This covers apartments, hotels, and multi-use buildings with residential units, etc.
- Single-family dwellings and townhouses are exempt, where townhouses are defined as three or more adjacent but separated units, which extend foundation-to-roof and are open on at least two sides each.

Proposed Model Code Language:

- Height and story limits.
- Protected framing: 3 stories or 60 feet.
- Unprotected framing: 4 stories or 70 feet.
- Story height must be measured from grade plane. This means the use of non-combustible pedestals/podiums on otherwise combustible buildings no longer allows them to go above height limits for their materials

- NFPA 13 Sprinkler Protection. This is an upgrade from the current requirement for NFPA 13-R (residential), which leaves concealed spaces (between walls, attics, etc.) unprotected.
- Fire partitions, horizontal assemblies, and fire walls. All must be non-combustible or fire-retardant treated wood. Fire partitions and horizontal assemblies must be rated at one hour of fire resistance, and fire walls must be rated at two hours.
- In structures with five or more sleeping/dwelling units, horizontal assemblies don't create separate structures for the purposes of height limits, area limits, continuity of firewalls, or construction type.
- 24/7 fire watch. From the beginning of construction to the installation of sprinklers and certificate of occupancy, whenever construction work is not underway. The developer or owner is responsible for hiring and training the fire watch warden to inspect, patrol, and report weekly on potential fire safety threats.
- Fire watch wardens can be active or retired firefighters, fire inspectors/marshals, building trades council members, police officers, first responders, or certified security guards.
- Signage indicating building material. An 8x11 white placard with large, bold letters must be displayed prominently within 10 feet of the entrance, with a description of the building material in this format: "Load-bearing light-framed combustible walls serve as the primary structural system of this structure".

This measure is product-neutral, so other building materials would display appropriate descriptions, such as "load-bearing concrete walls," structural steel frame," or "fire-treated lumber".

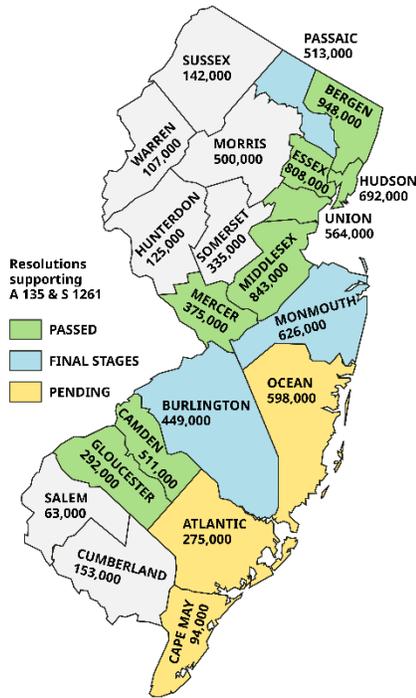


A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

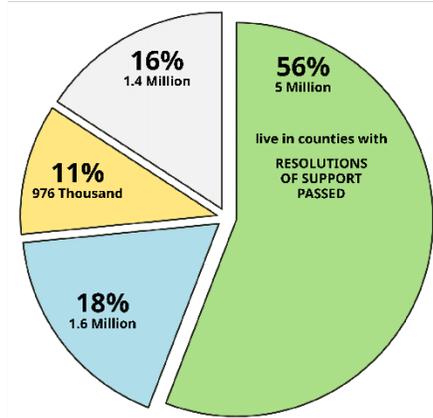
- Bills A 135 and S 1261 will amend the state code with our model language. Both are publicly endorsed by Senate Pres. Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin.
- All major building trades unions have now joined a Build With Strength coalition in support of the bills: contractors, carpenters, teamsters, bricklayers, IUPAT/painters, electrical workers, pipe- and sprinkler-fitters, and more.
- Resolutions of support have been passed by 7 counties' boards of freeholders, representing 5 million people, equal to 56% of the population of New Jersey.

Latest Actions

- Build With Strength held a press conference on November 14th, 2018, where our coalition unveiled our fire safety legislation, Assembly Bill 135 and Senate Bill 1261. The bills were presented by their primary sponsors: Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Deputy Speaker Wayne P. DeAngelo, and State Senator Brian P. Stack. The press conference received print, television, and radio coverage.
- Build With Strength continues to pursue a resolution of support in Passaic County.



NEW JERSEY SUPPORTS BILLS A 135 & S 1261 FOR FIRE SAFE BUILDING



We anticipate the support of at least 11 counties, representing 6.6 million people, equal to 74% of the population of New Jersey

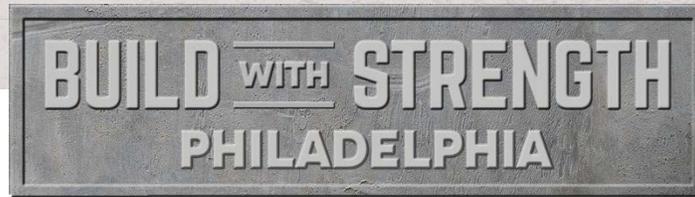
Resolutions of support passed for A 135 & S 1261:

By counties:

- Bergen
- Camden
- Essex
- Gloucester
- Hudson
- Mercer
- Middlesex
- Union

By cities:

- Edgewater Borough (in Bergen County)
- Maplewood Township (in Essex County)
- Wall Township (in Monmouth County)



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- An ordinance containing our model code language is planned for introduction in Philadelphia this year, and supported by a broad-based coalition of business groups and building trades unions.
- State representative Brian Sims has indicated support, and is assisting the coalition.
- On June 28th, 2018, Mayor Jim Kenney signed new building codes into law, based on 2018 I-Codes. Build With Strength is working with potential sponsors on the city council to introduce the model code language as an amendment to the new code.
- Coalition building outreach continues to build relationships with community organizations representing Philadelphia residents, chambers of commerce, business associations, and affordable housing groups.

Latest Actions

- Mayfair Civic Association and Tacony Civic Association, representing historic neighborhoods in northeast Philadelphia, have joined Build With Strength as coalition partners.



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

- Build With Strength is working with the LA City Council staff to finalize language that would establish fire-safe zones where light-frame construction is limited.
- As in New Jersey and Philadelphia, our coalition enjoys the support of the main building trades union groups. Recently, we have garnered the full support of the Carpenters/Contractors Cooperation Committee (statewide) and the LA Building Trades with outreach.
- Build With Strength published a [press release highlighting the financial risks of wood-framed construction](#), which includes the contributions of Build With Strength member David Kersh, executive director of the Carpenters/Contractors Cooperation Committee.
- Recent California wildfires have inspired a greater sense of urgency for fire safety legislation among council members.

Latest Actions

- On February 10th, 2019, Build With Strength met with twelve of the fifteen city councilmembers to review drafts of our fire safety ordinance to be introduced later this year.

THE REED AWARDS

NRMCA State & Local Government Affairs named ‘Trade Association of the Year’

The National Ready-Mixed Concrete Association State and Local Government Affairs Program was recently named “Trade Association of the Year” in the Grassroots category. This recognition sets NRMCA and Build With Strength apart from almost 67,000 trade associations in the United States.

Build With Strength is the central pillar of NRMCA’s advocacy efforts. This recognition represents a victory for the entire coalition. This award in the “grassroots” category represents our commitment to a broad-based coalition, working toward the common goal of a safer, greener built environment.

The Build With Strength campaign has reached lawmakers, industry stakeholders, and the public to inform and educate them about the dangers of combustible, mass timber construction, and the need for resilience and sustainability.

The Reed Awards are awarded by Campaigns & Elections, the “how-to” journal for the political campaign, advocacy, and communications industry, and are named after the journal’s founder, Stanley Foster Reed.

OTHER STATE LEGISLATION

0 WINS	7 ONGOING EFFORTS	0 LOSSES
	3 Bills Supported 2 Bills Opposed 1 Ordinance Opposed 1 Other Ongoing Effort	

HAWAII – 2 bills

HB 562

Status: In 2nd Chamber

Position: SUPPORT

Summary:

This bill creates a “construction waste reuse and recycling working group”, to create and determine how to implement a requirement for the reuse or recycling of construction waste. The group must make a report including recommendations and proposed legislation for the 2020 legislative session. There is significant concrete in construction waste. Recycling would be directly beneficial, and aligned with green building objectives.

Actions:

Build With Strength has recommended support for this bill to the state affiliate. If the bill moves forward, the state affiliate and/or Build With Strength will work to ensure that the concrete industry is represented in the working group.

HB 859

Status: In 1st Chamber

Position: **SUPPORT**

Summary:

This bill directs the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to establish a plan to develop and construct a net-zero emissions, self-sustaining community development before the 2020 legislative session. The transit-oriented development (TOD) surrounds a rail corridor under construction in East Kapolei, outside Honolulu. This presents an opportunity for the industry, as concrete benefits net-zero construction.

Actions:

Build With Strength has recommended support for this bill to the state affiliate.

MASSACHUSETTS – 1 bill

SD 1409

Status: In 1st Chamber

Position: **OPPOSED**

Summary:

This bill promotes the construction of municipal public buildings with wood, instead of concrete or steel. It orders the Department of Natural Resources to develop a program of grants and loans for “communities for sustainable climate”. To qualify for the program, a community must pass a number of laws protecting natural resources and habitats. In addition, it must pass a procurement policy that substitutes wood for concrete and steel, where feasible, in public buildings. The objectives of forest protection and sustainability on one hand, and a subsidy for wood products on the other, are in obvious contradiction.

Actions:

Build With Strength has notified the state affiliate to be ready for action if the bill moves forward.

NEW YORK – 1 bill

A 2776

Status: In 1st Chamber

Position: **OPPOSED**

Summary:

This bill amends the New York Buy American Act to include wood laminated structural components of bridges. The existing law requires that state contracts for public works over \$1 million must buy construction materials from U.S.-based manufacturers, unless they are not available or would significantly increase the cost of a project.

Actions:

Build With Strength sent a letter of opposition to the Assembly Committee on Government Operations, opposing the bill on the grounds that it artificially incentivizes laminated wood over other building materials. Laminated wood is insufficiently tested for fire resistance and long-term performance.

PORTLAND, OREGON – 1 ORDINANCE

Proposed Requirement for Product-Specific EPDs

Status: Public Comment Period

Position: **OPPOSED**

Summary:

This regulation introduces new requirements for commercial grade concrete (CGC) and Portland cement concrete (PCC) submitted to the City of Portland for city construction projects. These products are required to have a product-specific Type III Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). Beginning January 1st, 2021, concrete submitted to the City of Portland must have a Global Warming Potential (GWP) below the regional average for its strength class, as determined by a product-specific EPD.

Manipulating the formulation of one building product will likely not reduce impacts, but only drive up the cost of construction. Unrealistic limitations on product formulation are often impossible for producers to meet.

Actions:

Build With Strength is preparing a public comment and response on behalf of its members, to be submitted by the public comment deadline on March 15th.

WASHINGTON – 1 BILL, 1 ONGOING EFFORT

HB 1257 & SB 5293

Status: In 1st Chamber

Position: **SUPPORT**

Summary:

This bill requires that by July 1, 2020, the department of commerce must establish by rule a state energy performance standard for covered commercial buildings and early adoption incentive program. The standard must take into account embodied carbon emissions, as well as life-cycle cost benefits due to energy efficiency in the design of a building.

Actions:

Build With Strength, the state affiliate, and allies have prompted the sponsor to consider not only embodied carbon, but emissions in the operational use phase, as measured by life-cycle analyses (LCAs). Build With Strength plans to testify in support of the bill at a future committee hearing.

“BUY CLEAN WASHINGTON” PILOT and STUDY

Status: Ongoing Effort in Future Legislation and Regulation

Summary:

In 2018, Build With Strength and the state affiliate successfully defeated [HB 2412](#), the “Buy Clean Washington” Act. The bill mandated costly Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for certain structural materials for public buildings and infrastructure projects.

The 2018 Capital Budget included funds for a “Buy Clean” pilot program and a study conducted by the University of Washington (UW) College of Built Environments.

Actions:

While there are areas that are misleading, the study report is very comprehensive and considers the major concerns of the concrete industry. Build With Strength and the state affiliate, and partners are developing an approach to promote Life-Cycle Analyses (LCAs) in future Washington legislation. LCAs and green building standards (such as LEED) are a more equitable and accurate alternative to product-specific EPDs to determine the climate impact of a construction project.