

Grant Proposal Gains Support on the Hill

The Code Council's proposal for a [Community Building Code Administrative Grant \(CBCAG\)](#) program has earned serious attention since the Council's visit to Capitol Hill in May. During Building Safety Week this year, the Code Council's Board, Government Relations Advisory Committee and Chapter leaders met with over 100 Congressional offices to discuss draft legislation to create the CBCAG program. As a result of these meetings, and years worth of prior work on the program in concept, key legislators in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives have agreed to sponsor legislation to create the CBCAG program.

In July, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, in a meeting with Code Council CEO Rick Weiland and Board Immediate Past President Wally Bailey, agreed to sponsor the legislation in the Senate. Given Louisiana's experience in rebuilding after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Senator Landrieu clearly sees the need for, and benefits of, the program, and immediately began preparing the legislation for introduction this year. In September, after Congress returned from its August recess, U.S. House Representative Dennis Moore of Kansas met with Rick Weiland and Council Board member Tim Ryan, and agreed to sponsor the legislation in the House. Representative Moore, who serves as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Hazards Caucus, also serves on the House Committee where the bill will be referred once introduced.

Just this month, staff for Senator Landrieu and Congressman Moore spoke to Code Council membership at the Annual Conference in Reno. Senator Landrieu and



Chapter officers unwind after a busy day advocating for the Council's Community Building Code Administration Grant program. Pictured are Roger Axel (left), Association of Minnesota Building Officials (2006 Merit Award); Sheila Lee, California Building Officials (2006 Chapter of the Year); Kurt Kasson, North Texas Chapter (2006 Merit Award); Paul Aston, Idaho Association of Building Officials (2006 Merit Award); Tina Rakes, Heart of America Chapter (2006 Merit Award); and Vice President of Chapter Relations Laura Scott.

Congressman Moore are coordinating development of final bill language, and project that the legislation will be introduced in October or November. ICC has begun building a coalition of partners and executing its plan for Chapter and grassroots support. More information will be coming directly to you from the Chapter Department in the next few months on how you can be involved in supporting the passage of the legislation.