



International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
tel: 888.icc.safe (422.7233)
tel: 202.370.1800
fax: 202.783.2348
www.iccsafe.org

PRESIDENT
GUY TOMBERLIN, CBO
Branch Chief
Department of Public Works and
Environmental Services
Fairfax County, VA

VICE PRESIDENT
ALEX "CASH" OLSZOWY III
Building Inspection Supervisor
Lexington-Fayette Urban
County Government
Lexington, KY

SECRETARY/TREASURER
M. DWAYNE GARRISS
State Fire Marshal
State of Georgia
Atlanta, GA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
STEPHEN D. JONES, CBO
Construction Official
Millburn/Short Hills Township, NJ
Borough of Florham Park, NJ

WILLIAM JEFFREY BECHTOLD
Senior Building Official
Planning and Development Services of
Kenton County
Mitchell, KY

ALAN B. BOSWELL, CBO, MCP
Chief Building Official
City of Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa, AL

JIM H. BROWN
Deputy Building Official
City of Gillette
Gillette, WY

WILLIAM R. BRYANT, MCP
Code Enforcement Administrator
Department of Inspections and Permits
Anne Arundel County, MD

ROBERT DREXLER
Fire Marshal
Greece, NY

JAY ELBETTAR, P.E., CBO, LEED AP, CASp
Building Official
Mission Viejo, CA

GILBERT GONZALES, JR., CBO
Chief Building Official
Murray, UT

RONALD E. HOOVER, CBO, MCP
Director of Building Inspections/
Fire Chief
City of Marion/Alburnett Fire Dept.
Marion, IA

JAMES E. MORGANSON
CPCA, Director of Codes
Village of Lake Placid/Town of North Elba
Lake Placid, NY

M. DONNY PHIPPS, CBO, CFM
Director of Building Codes and
Inspections
Richland County
Columbia, SC

TINA RAKES
Code Administrator/Combination
Inspector
Baldwin City, KS

RICHARD C. TRUITT, SR.
Deputy Director Inspections, Licenses
and Permits
Harford County, MD

LYNN UNDERWOOD, CBO, MCP
Code Official
Norfolk, VA

GREG WHEELER, CBO
Chief Building Official
Thornton, CO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DOMINIC SIMS, CBO
Washington, DC

January 30, 2015
Jim Milke, Ph.D., P.E.
Department of Fire Protection Engineering
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Jim Milke,

We are writing on behalf of the International Code Council (ICC) to express support for establishing a PhD Program in fire protection engineering (FPE) at the University of Maryland. ICC is a member-focused association representing over 57,000 building safety professionals including code and fire officials, engineers, architects, designers. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.

As a provider of education and certification, and the key supporter of a high school technical training program, we understand the importance of education to public safety and fully support the value of highly educated and experienced fire protection engineers who design safe buildings using the latest fire protection technologies and a performance-based approach to fire and life safety.

The University of Maryland has an excellent reputation for its undergraduate and graduate FPE programs. Further enhancing the education and research opportunities with a PhD program is most appropriate and timely.

The current model codes developed by ICC Members and other stakeholders are developed and updated every three years. We are seeing a migration toward performance-based design and a greater use of alternative methods and procedures requiring engineering analysis in the design and construction of new buildings. There are also increasing requirements of sustainability, resilience and accessibility that must be balanced with an adequate level of fire and life safety along with affordability. As commissioning requirements are now being added for new buildings and systems, these changes have created the need for new fire protection research and PhDs that will lead the fire protection engineering profession in the decades to come.

The ICC supports the proposal to add a FPE PhD program at the University of Maryland to meet these challenges in advanced-level research and provide the profession with the most highly educated practitioners in the field of fire protection engineering. We believe the research data published by PhD candidates will be invaluable to the future of code development.

We commend the University of Maryland and the FPE faculty for their outstanding contributions to the profession and for producing some of the finest fire protection engineers who work tirelessly to ensure fire and life safety in the built environment.

Sincerely,

Dominic Sims, CBO
ICC Chief Executive Officer

Guy Tomberlin, CBO
President, ICC Board of Directors