

Building Board Meeting

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Transcript Prepared By:



T R A N S C R I P T I O N
O U T S O U R C I N G , L L C

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1 Egan: We're ready to start the next section here which is
2 Building. If you want to stay for that, you're
3 welcome. My name is Jeff Egan. I'm the Building
4 Program Manager for the Idaho Division of Occupational
5 and Professional Licenses. I'm going to talk to you
6 today about, uh, repeal and replace ZBR which is Zero
7 Build- -- uh, oh boy -- uh, and I'm going to introduce
8 a couple people here. Uh, let's see. Amy Kohler (ph)
9 is here. She's a DPL (ph) employee. Um, Michael Hyde
10 is the HVAC Program Manager, and Tim Frost is, uh, our
11 Bureau Regulation Chief, and, um, I'm going to ask him
12 to come up and talk to you for just a minute about
13 ZBR, uh, the governor's mandate.

14 Frost: So again, Tim Frost. I'm the Operations and
15 Regulatory Bureau Chief at the Division of
16 Occupational and Professional Licenses, and I guess
17 I'd just start with saying thank you for, you know,
18 attending today. We appreciate, um, when industry and
19 building officials are willing to come interact with
20 us and give us your thoughts and comments about, uh,
21 current processes, what's happened in the past, um,
22 and, and what needs to happen in the future. So, um,
23 thank you for, for your willingness to attend and
24 provide some feedback.

25



1 Um, to give some context, um, of, of why we're holding
2 these public sessions, back in 2017, uh, then
3 Lieutenant Governor Brad Little issued, uh, the
4 Licensing Freedom Act Executive Order which, uh, did a
5 full thorough review of all of our trades,
6 occupations, professions, and regulatory bodies to
7 take a look at how many boards do we have, how many,
8 uh, licenses, um, registrations permit processes do we
9 have in the state, how many licensing systems, and
10 gave us a, a full thorough review. We have hundreds
11 of different licenses, uh, many different boards, and
12 agencies administering those licenses and well over 11
13 or so, uh, operating and, and, uh, IT systems that we
14 work from. And so the, the goal of that Licensing
15 Freedom Act was start to figure out how do we simplify
16 that, make that more efficient for consumers, make
17 that more efficient for, uh, anybody that we interact
18 with on a day-to-day basis, uh, while also balancing
19 the, the mission of each one of our boards which is
20 protecting the public.

21
22 So, um, in 2019, uh, Governor Little issued, uh, 2019-
23 02 Red Tape Reduction Act. Uh, it was an executive
24 order by which every single one of the agencies held,
25 um, public meetings together. There was 151 public



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meetings held in the State of Idaho, uh, related to rules, and of all those agencies, 75 percent, uh, of all administrative rules were simplified. Um, there was quite a few chapters that were, uh, streamlined or chapters that were unnecessary and duplicative of statute that were removed. Uh, and all in the goal of reducing unnecessary barriers or, uh, scenarios within the trades and the professions and the boards that didn't have any correlation to safety.

Um, as a result of that, uh, the legislature and the governor's office has really partnered on continuous review of each one of our boards. Uh, in 2020, uh, Senate Bill 1351 passed which created a, uh, Legislative Professional Occupational Review Committee that begins in 2022 where it's a group of legislators that are going to review each one of our boards, the practice act of those boards, um, and they evaluate, uh, the role of the board, um, you know, is the board, uh, accomplishing the goals that the legislature set forth, is that practice act narrowly tailored to what the legislature, uh, continues to want it to look like? And so every one of our boards are going to go through a five-year, five-year reviewal process from a legislative statute perspective from a legislative



1 statute perspective and that process will begin in
2 2022.

3
4 And so, uh, the governor created a Zero Based
5 Regulation which was an executive order that came out
6 in the beginning of 2020 that put our boards and our
7 rules, each one of our rule chapters on a similar
8 five-year timeline of a review cycle. Uh, so instead
9 of, um -- in the, in the goal of avoiding the, the
10 panic to repeal/replace every year that's, that's gone
11 on with -- under this rule making was to have a
12 cadence five-year review cycle where, um, we're
13 removing bureaucratic inertia and things that are set-
14 it and forget-it, but at the same time we're actively
15 engaging with our stakeholders on maybe things that
16 need to be amended and adjusted based off of what we
17 know is happening with the economy, what we know is
18 happening with the trade, um, or review the things
19 that we've historically done and ask all -- do all
20 these things need to continue to exist? Do we need to
21 make modifications or are they perfectly exactly where
22 they should be and should continue? Um, and we can
23 justify that from a safety perspective.

24
25 And so, uh, in going through ZBR, our Building Code



1 Board, um, which oversees both our building code and
2 the energy code, um, will be going through this
3 similar process, um, and, uh, the task of each one of
4 these agencies is a repeal/replace, and as we replace
5 our rule chapters, we're to compare the surrounding
6 states as well as South Dakota and Alaska on, um, what
7 requirements we have and what rules we have and, and
8 discuss the, the cost-to-benefit ratio -- uh, the
9 cost-to-benefit if you will of each one of those
10 rules. Um, the, the goal is to also look at is how we
11 are currently regulated? Is it accomplishing exactly
12 what we want? Is it providing the safety benefits,
13 um, that we intended from the beginning and that the
14 legislature intended?

15
16 And so, um, there's certainly some staff work on our
17 end as we work with our boards, um, going through
18 their repeal and replace of rules, and in doing so,
19 uh, it requires a lot of gathering of information from
20 industry and building officials on, uh, what you all
21 believe is the right touch of regulation, what you all
22 believe is, is the right, right way that Idaho should
23 go, and then all this information is pulled together,
24 and, uh, then it's pulled before our boards since our
25 boards have the statute authority to adopt their



1 rules.

2

3 And so, uh, as we go through the discussion today, um,
4 I know Jeff or Mike will have different things that
5 we'd like to, you know, kind of comment on or get
6 feedback on. Uh, please be completely open with your
7 opinion on the issue, um, whether it's for or
8 completely against it. This is an opportunity for you
9 to be heard, um, and we want that feedback of, of why
10 you think that. So, um, I guess with that is there
11 any questions on ZBR, the process or anything like
12 that? All right. Well I appreciate you all
13 commenting and engaging. Thanks.

14 Egan: So as Tim pointed out, uh, this is a chance for you to
15 comment, and we are going to be listening. So what
16 I'm going to be asking is that you come forward up to
17 the podium here, uh, where we have a recorder where
18 your comments will be recorded for, uh, the future,
19 and, um, we need to hear from, uh, the industry, the
20 construction industry, the design industry where we
21 need to go with, uh, the rules, uh, so that we can
22 present those to the Building Code Board. Um, uh, so
23 please feel free to come up, ask questions or make
24 comments at any time.

25



1 Um, one of the things that we've noticed is that there
2 had been very few comments regarding building code,
3 and, um, we're, we're wondering why that is. Is that
4 because everybody is just so comfortable with where
5 the building code is or, uh, why is that? Um, so, uh,
6 one of the things we're trying to do is reduce
7 regulations, and, uh, building codes definitely
8 regulate the industry. Um, and we're looking for ways
9 to reduce those regulations.

10
11 Um, uh, so I'm going to start with the, uh,
12 International Building Code. Uh, the Building Code
13 Board has made deletions to this code, uh, from the
14 beginning, and we're looking for comments on what
15 additional items should be deleted or, uh, are
16 outdated or don't apply to Idaho. So regarding
17 commercial projects, uh, I'm looking for comments
18 regarding the International Building Code. Should we
19 keep it? Should we change it? Uh, 'cause we're going
20 to be repealing the whole code and putting back in the
21 items that apply to Idaho. Uh, are there any comments
22 on International Building Code? We're going to be
23 starting from zero. I see a couple building officials
24 out there. Perhaps they have a comment.

25 Johnson: Stanley Johnson, Heating Equipment Company out of



1 Caldwell. I'd like to say I appreciate the HVAC Board
2 of the state. Um, I, I know Pat Miniger (ph)
3 personally. I know Dan Brisly (ph) personally. I met
4 many building officials that served on the board. I
5 appreciate all their efforts that that have gone into
6 developing the different things regulating our
7 industry. Um, I, I suppose maybe the reason you
8 haven't had some comments on code is because these
9 meetings were announced having to do with licensing,
10 not code, and maybe these people aren't attending
11 because they didn't know they would have the
12 opportunity to talk about code. I don't know. I'm
13 speculating. I'm just saying maybe the way that it
14 was announced could have conveyed that we'd be talking
15 about code.

16
17 Um, as far as building code goes, I think that it is
18 important. I completely endorse having code, having
19 regulations that govern the building. Um, there are
20 regulations I know some people don't appreciate, but
21 there are reasons why they are in there. I went to a
22 home in Star area that they had a \$5,000 LP bill to
23 heat their home. It was because the ducting wasn't
24 connected in the attic. Their return was wide open in
25 the attic. The duct blast test, which some people



1 don't appreciate, would have proved that instantly.
2 Our company wasn't the installing company, but before
3 anybody thinks I'm throwing shoes on somebody else or,
4 you know, casting any stones against them, I went out
5 on one of our own jobs. We couldn't develop any
6 pressure. Sure enough my installers had not made a
7 final connection in the crawlspace. So any company
8 that's been in business for a while has had their
9 people mess up. It happens.

10
11 So some of these things that are test procedures that
12 didn't use to be required really do show where there's
13 issues. You could wait until a homer gets a \$5,000
14 bill and then find out the problem is or you can test
15 upfront. Um, I personally think that I appreciate all
16 of the codes that are in place. I -- when I began
17 doing engineering for HVAC systems, our compressor
18 failures, our customer complaints they just dropped
19 off. Um, we've been with Link since 1950. They said
20 they knew when our company began doing engineering
21 because they could see the difference in the warranty
22 claims on our equipment. There's definite benefits to
23 things that code is requiring.

24 Egan: So do you think, do you think the state should
25 regulate, uh, the fact that someone did not connect

1 the ducts properly? Should that not be somebody
2 else's responsibility or should the state be
3 regulating that?

4 Johnson: I think that the individual contractor should be held
5 accountable, uh, myself. I, I don't know why a
6 contractor can't do his own test and just sign a piece
7 of paper saying he did it. It's on the honor system.
8 I get that. As a taxpayer, I'm not really interested
9 in paying some official to have to go out there and
10 witness the test. I, I, I think that it can, it can
11 be a requirement that the contractor can sign off on
12 yes he had people cheat the system but it's putting a
13 lot of expense out there if they want to witness every
14 test.

15 Egan: Right.

16 Johnson: And I think it's a burden on the contractor that it
17 can be he has to meet somebody out there, leave his
18 machine set up. There's, there's, there's issues with
19 that. I do think that contractors should be held
20 accountable to doing jobs right.

21
22 Um, and for instance, air balance, to me I -- if a
23 customer doesn't have a room that's comfortable,
24 they're going to tell the contractor. I do think that
25 we should have proper airflow, complete airflow

1 because you don't have true efficiency and capacity of
2 equipment if you don't have your total airflow proper.
3 But as far as a room-by-room balance, I know it does
4 set up a potential for, uh, negative or positive
5 pressures in different rooms that can cause
6 exfiltration or infiltration. But I don't think it's
7 near as big of an energy item that should be on the
8 radar of the government other than knowing the system
9 at its total efficiency and capacity as working
10 proper, properly. Excuse me.

11
12 I would like to see the requirement for locking
13 refrigerant caps done away with. If somebody wants to
14 huff refrigerant, now we put locking caps on. They go
15 out there and they sniff the line and now the customer
16 is losing all of their refrigerant. Now you've got
17 water in the system from water that's in the air, and
18 it is a very expensive repair. If some kid wants to
19 go huff refrigerant, he's going to pass out when he
20 finally gets enough in the system and fall over and
21 the customer -- now they're going to pay for some
22 recharge but not a repair. That's my personal opinion
23 on it. I'd like to see that requirement done away
24 with.

25 Egan: Okay.

1 Johnson: Yes, sir.

2 Egan: Good comment.

3 Frost: Um, follow-up question. You didn't say that you
4 support the code.

5 Johnson: Mm-Hmm.

6 Frost: Um, right now our board has the 2018 International
7 Building Code.

8 Johnson: Mm-Hmm.

9 Frost: Do you, uh, agree that it should stay as the 2018? Do
10 you think it should be updated to the 2021? Should it
11 revert to 2015? There's a lot of different approaches
12 states have. What's your opinion on that?

13 Johnson: There was a lot of problems with the 2015 code is my
14 memory that you had codebooks that completely
15 conflicted with one another, and they referenced each
16 other. So I don't think that 2015 should be in effect
17 at all. I think there was major issues with that code
18 cycle. The 2018 code cycle I think addressed a lot of
19 those issues that were in the 2015. I personally
20 endorse the 2018 codebook. I think that there's some
21 like locking caps that I think there's some things
22 that should be done to fine-tune things but -- yes,
23 sir.

24 Frost: And, and if you could, please stick around at noon if
25 you have time and discuss the mechanical code

1 specifically.

2 Johnson: Okay.

3 Frost: So.

4 Johnson: I, I think that we do need regu- -- I grew up in a
5 little town in Illinois with one stop sign. You knew
6 everybody and their dog in town, and you knew when you
7 got in business with somebody what you were in for
8 'cause you knew their reputation. And we live in a
9 large area now. A lot -- and the public has a
10 reasonable expectation that contractors have to have a
11 certain amount of education and oversight to make sure
12 that they're doing things legally to protect the
13 public.

14
15 On the other hand, the government shouldn't be
16 expected to protect consumers from making stupid
17 decisions, going through the phonebook and just
18 calling to see who's the cheapest person and thinking
19 they're all equal, price is the only difference. It
20 isn't. And so I think the public has some unrealistic
21 expectations that government's going to protect them
22 from unscrupulous or unprofessional people. It's,
23 it's not going to be a perfect world out there.

24 Egan: Thank you very much. It's a beautiful comment.

25 Johnson: Thank you.

1 Egan: Does anybody else have a comment regarding the 20- --
2 oh.

3 Graham: Bruce Graham, Quality Heating and Air, uh,
4 Grangeville. And you know, when I first got into
5 working with the HVAC Board at, at its inception I
6 thought that every -- we needed more regulation. Uh,
7 I've seen a lot of shoddy work out there, etcetera,
8 but everybody has a right to do shoddy work and then -
9 - and people have a right to build their own home or,
10 or hire that shoddy contractor I guess. So and what I
11 have seen, at least in my area, is all this regulation
12 that we've put into place and the HVAC side hasn't
13 done anything. Hasn't done a thing for the shoddy
14 work. You've still got the guys working unlicensed.
15 You've still got the, got the guys doing shoddy work
16 even if they are licensed. They're not pulling
17 permits, you know, etcetera.

18
19 So have we really improved the quality of the homes
20 that, that, that, uh, our people are seeing? And then
21 at the same time does everybody have a right to have a
22 home? Have you been through Portland or Eugene,
23 Oregon, lately and looked at the, the homeless people
24 out there? Have we, have we set the standard of the
25 houses so high that now that -- now only the elite can

1 afford to have a home, you know? I think we need to
2 back off on some of this stuff, you know. Uh, a 400
3 square foot home or 1,000 square foot home really
4 needs to have a whole lot different look than a 10,000
5 square foot home that's going to burn tons and tons
6 and tons of energy.

7
8 But everybody has to have a spot to begin, you know,
9 and work their way up or whatever, have a roof over
10 their heads. We're getting so crazy with our codes,
11 etcetera, especially these, these energy codes. We're
12 just getting so crazy with these, these codes that
13 people can't afford a house.

14 Frost: Is there anything in particular on the energy code
15 that you'd like to see?

16 Graham: You know, I, I think we need to get people from, from
17 every area and, and, and get building boards. What,
18 what we see is, is your building boards most people,
19 most people here in Boise and most of the people on
20 the building boards are -- live in a nice house, you
21 know, etcetera. You don't have people on these boards
22 that are just barely making it. We need a, a, a --
23 you know, maybe we need to have -- get our small
24 groups together in our different areas throughout the
25 state and then get, get representatives, you know.



1 That's the way it really needs to be to, uh, represent
2 the state and then figure out where we need to go.
3 But, but forcing people out of homes because of --
4 because we want to set them too elite is not the way
5 to go.

6 Egan: Okay. Thank you.

7 Calkins: It was funny. I had mentioned to John I moved up here
8 so I could try to hear the people 'cause I was sitting
9 back there during the electricians. And so he got the
10 idea, he got the idea of moving this thing this way
11 'cause you --

12 Frost: Can you state your name?

13 Calkins: -- you gentlemen are close. I'm Kenny Calkins. And,
14 uh, 'cause these gentlemen are close and they can hear
15 you, but I want to speak to the people in the back of
16 the room, right. Okay. So that's what I'm going to
17 do.

18
19 Um, where do I want to start? I want to start with my
20 dad building his own house in 1951. And, uh, he, he,
21 he was a -- he, uh, uh, you know, I don't know at that
22 point in time what all he did for a living. He never
23 started becoming a fire sprinkler until about 1954,
24 and he did that 'til about 1964 and became a plumber.
25 And he scrounged up material, and he built this one



1 bedroom house that I still remember living in. Well
2 it's funny. That house is off of Fairview between 5
3 Mile and Cloverdale. And, uh, I went by there the
4 other day 'cause there was a lady that had passed away
5 that lived down the road and that -- the people that,
6 the people that bought that house had torn the whole
7 roof off.

8
9 I remember watching that house over the years and
10 watching the tresses sink and sink and sink. It kind
11 of reminded me of those houses you see built up in
12 Round Valley or, you know, Long Valley. You know,
13 they start sinking and sinking and sinking.

14
15 And, uh, so you know, there really wasn't any building
16 codes back then. Heck, the plumbing code never even
17 started in Idaho until 1957, the day the governor
18 signed that -- signed the first plumbing law in that
19 picture right there, '54 or '53. So anyway, no it was
20 '57. Um, so I, I do believe in codes.

21
22 I don't know at that point in time whether or not the
23 house that I grew up in who they finally tore the roof
24 off here, uh, you know, this year to put on new
25 manufactured tresses, you know, to rebuild the house,



1 uh, you know, I don't know how that, you know, would
2 have done any good or how that would have stopped him
3 to be able to afford to buy it -- to build that house.

4
5 Um, but as more and more people come around and we're,
6 we're, we're tighter together we do need to have rules
7 and regulations because all rules and regulations all
8 just come from us all being closer and closer
9 together. Okay. So, uh, I believe in the building
10 code, and I think we should have a building code
11 whether or not you have the International Building
12 Code or not. That's, uh, that's suspect.

13
14 Years ago the plumbers here in Idaho we, we adopted
15 the first plumbing code, the Uniform Plumbing Code.
16 Several years, uh, the -- some of the people in the
17 building, uh, inspection industry wanted to change our
18 code to the International Code and we fought that.
19 Well I was on the National Board of the Plumbing,
20 Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association, and I
21 was back in Washington DC and I had a few hours before
22 I got to meet with one of my senators. So I was
23 walking around and decided to go to their general
24 headquarters of the International Code Council. And
25 it's -- you can -- from the, from the one little patio



1 up on the sixth floor you can see the Capitol
2 Building.

3
4 And I was given a tour of this thing, and they were --
5 they're all proud of the building and stuff. And I
6 talked to a guy in this one room. I'll never forget
7 the look on his face because this lady was taking me
8 around, and she introduced me to the guy and he goes
9 yeah, you know. And I said yeah I'm from Idaho and we
10 use your HVAC code, and he goes yeah. Uh, we're
11 working on the, uh, uh, energy code, and we're using
12 Idaho as a test state. And then got this look on his
13 eye like he should have never said that. So I don't
14 know what all that meant to Idaho, you know, but we
15 were -- back in Washington they were developing an
16 energy code and the guys back there was using Idaho as
17 a test state for what reason I don't know.

18
19 You know, you think about you mentioned some of the
20 houses and stuff. There's a house on McCall Lake that
21 has the largest piece, single piece of glass in I
22 guess I heard West of the Mississippi on Payette Lake
23 owned by a guy who's like an investment guy from,
24 from, uh, from, uh, uh, San Francisco, but yet the
25 energy codes talks about how much glass he can have in

1 his house. Well is, is that really -- is that really
2 something that the state should recommend or require?
3 Hey, you have this house with this huge view. You can
4 only have so many windows. Is that something that we
5 should have the state, you know, say? Okay, you can
6 only have so many square foot. You got this big a
7 house. You can have this many windows. I don't know.
8 Or leave it to the people who are going to pay the
9 fuel bill.

10
11 You know, maybe we don't need that as much energy code
12 as we think, you know. I mean at one time they talked
13 about everybody these, these mini castles or starter
14 castles is what I call them, these houses they're
15 building nowadays with the resurge (ph) systems that
16 require to have, you know, the, uh, the insulation. I
17 think all that's very important and we should have
18 that, and we should have better systems. We should
19 have engineered systems and stuff. You don't hear
20 about all these problems on commercial buildings
21 'cause there's engineers that design it and that's all
22 good.

23
24 But, uh, but I, I don't know if, uh, if exactly -- the
25 gentleman said about, about testing. You know, should



1 the state come and witness the test? Well I've said
2 for years -- I've said for years that it should be
3 just sent in by the contractor. Okay. We certify
4 that we've tested this for whatever and not have to
5 have the inspector go out there and look at it.

6
7 I'm not a service plumber anymore. I plumbed
8 commercial buildings years ago. Ever since Covid hit
9 we haven't had one city inspector go into one resident
10 to look at a water heater. We have paid every water
11 heater inspection. But they -- in the City of Boise
12 they have not went in and looked at one water heater.
13 I don't know what the state's doing. But anyway, I
14 know the City of Boise isn't.

15
16 So there's a lot of things that we can all -- there's
17 a lot of things that we can all work on. I know I've
18 talked about a lot of different things. One of the
19 things that I mention- -- or that I want to talk about
20 and I want to mention. I was talking to John Ewing
21 and Ewing Company. Now they work on sewer treatment
22 plants. But his family started lathing plaster. His
23 dad was a lathing plaster guy, you know. So that
24 industry was not even around. We were looking at the
25 Capitol Building yesterday because yesterday was Polly



1 Bemis Day in the State of Idaho. They unveiled her
2 statute. It's going to go up on the Salmon River.
3 And we were looking at that building and John goes
4 we'll never, ever build another building like that
5 again because what's happening in our industry just
6 like the tresses that were sent in to rebuild the
7 house that my dad built in '51 which he built by hand
8 -- and he told me one time he didn't even have a
9 square -- um, nowadays it seems like all we're doing
10 is putting together components from manufacturers,
11 right.

12
13 And in houses, you know, we -- we're not talking about
14 HVAC. I'm still trying to just talk about building
15 and energy. But how many guys -- how many guys in
16 HVAC, HVAC business build ducts anymore? You know,
17 they just roll out boxes of stuff and strap them up to
18 -- and strap them up to tresses. And so maybe we do
19 have to -- go ahead.

20 Egan: Well I was going to ask you, Kenny, as far as the
21 energy code goes, do you feel that each trade should
22 regulate their own section of the energy code or
23 should it be -- 'cause right now it's adopted under
24 the building code. So building inspector is the one
25 that enforces it or, you know, they deal with it.

1 Would you rather see each trade take care of their own
2 section of the energy code?

3 Calkins: I believe that I should be responsible for anybody who
4 covers my work. Well no. I, I say it wrong like
5 that. I believe on, on the refriger- -- or on the
6 insulation for piping, yes, that should be under the
7 plumbing and just let -- make sure, you know, that the
8 plumbing inspector, uh, sees it, um, you know, 'cause,
9 'cause who else is going to crawl under -- who else is
10 going to crawl under that house during the inspection
11 to make sure that the H- -- to make sure that the
12 plumbing pipes has been insulated with a -- if it
13 isn't the plumbing inspector when he's down there and
14 looking at it? Or maybe how many -- and I do service
15 guys -- how many -- uh, if they put the insulation on,
16 how many hangers did they remove getting insulation on
17 and didn't put back on? You know, so yeah. I think
18 anything that has to do with that should be inspected
19 by and, and controlled by the, uh, that person doing
20 that work.

21
22 And you know, you don't have a lot of people here.
23 You know, the one gentleman talked about licensing
24 because I'm sitting here trying to think other than
25 the plumbers, electricians, HVAC guys, who else is



1 licensed in our industry? Anybody know? Yeah. I
2 don't guess there's none. Yeah. So that's why you
3 don't have a lot of people here, you know, so.

4
5 But I do believe in inspections. I do believe in
6 inspections. Uh, we had a freeze one time on a
7 building. The walls were all -- they all -- the walls
8 were all, uh, insulated, uh, upstairs and downstairs,
9 so I'm sure whoever did the inspection went in and
10 made sure everything was insulated and they were
11 buried. But one of the problems is there was a
12 section where the tresses were between the first and
13 second floor. None of that was insulated. You stuck
14 your head above the ceiling, you know what, and if you
15 had any, uh, moisture in your hair it'd freeze. It
16 was cold during that time.

17
18 And so we had -- uh, the, the, the building, uh, had
19 frozen up. But, um, but we -- but the people that
20 inspected the building envelope, right, what we call
21 the envelope, they missed that and the people putting
22 it in they missed that. They did the walls upstairs.
23 They did the walls downstairs. Didn't do the area
24 between the two. Froze the water pipes. So anyway, I
25 can ramble forever if you guys really want to know.



1 Frost: Thank you for your comments. Appreciate it.

2 Calkins: Yeah.

3 Egan: Thank you, Ken.

4 Zahorka: Sam Zahorka (ph), building official, City of Meridian.

5 Um, codes save lives. They save lives. Um, whether

6 it be smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms,

7 (inaudible - 00:33:43) escape, rescue openings for

8 residential code, uh, commercial travel distances.

9 Smoke kills people, uh, sprinklers put, uh, the fire

10 out. It contains them. Any time you go in a

11 commercial building you can see sprinklers.

12

13 Uh, the codes, to answer your question, if we're

14 starting from zero, um, I think the 2018 IRC and IBC

15 code and energy code, you know, it's a well thought-

16 out process when they develop codes. Uh, if you're

17 interested in seeing how they develop codes, it's a

18 democratic process. Uh, there's code hearings. Um,

19 code professionals go to training. They have to get

20 certifications, continuing education credits, uh,

21 yearly to maintain their certifications. Uh, and the

22 codes are minimal. They're bare minimal and they're

23 all life safety codes. And so --

24 Egan: So that's a good question for (inaudible - 00:34:35)

25 kind of twist this around. How is a U-32 window



1 related to life safety?

2 Zahorka: Correct. So we'll speak on the energy code. I'm not
3 a big proponent of the energy codes. I think our
4 energy -- our homes are tight. I think they're
5 comfortable. I think, uh, the envelope is important
6 to your, to your point. You have to have a, a, an
7 envelope as far as raising that level of energy, uh,
8 uh, efficiency in homes on what a three-year cycle. I
9 think the, uh -- again, blower door testing, just as
10 of this year, every, uh, contractor, every fifth home
11 he has to get a blower door test. What is the
12 opportunity or what is the, the historical record of a
13 house not meeting (inaudible - 00:35:20) changes an
14 hour.

15
16 So again, I think that the energy code is very
17 aggressive. A big proponent of life safety. That's
18 why I do my job. Um, you know, but the codes are
19 minimum. It's about a firefighter or first responder
20 getting through a window to rescue somebody or
21 somebody to get out of that sleeping room. These are
22 the minimum life safety codes. And commercial
23 building, how far should a, a, an occupant travel to
24 an egress to get out of a building when a structural
25 collapse. You look at the building that collapsed in



1 Florida. You -- the codes are based off historical
2 errors. Whole cities burning down. Go ahead.

3 Frost: Sam, quick questions for you on that in regards to
4 blower door testing and inspections. Means that we
5 have other local enforcement authorities here. We
6 were going to ask how does that adapt or amendment
7 that we have with builders producing so many reports
8 and tests for every fifth house, how has that been
9 from an enforcement perspective? Has it been
10 difficult to enforce?

11 Zahorka: It's very difficult. In the City of Meridian we had
12 over 10,000 houses last month -- or last year. Um,
13 right now we built our process, uh, based on that
14 minimum code requirement that it is the contractor's
15 responsibility to communicate to us when they're going
16 to, uh, perform a blower door test. Uh, it's very,
17 very difficult. Administratively, how do you do that?
18 How do you chase the volume of contractors and follow
19 every fifth house?

20
21 So those types of requirements that get built in the
22 code put a huge burden on local jurisdictions to try
23 and enforce those codes. Uh, so again, we're contrac-
24 -- we -- our, our -- the way that we handle that in
25 the City of Meridian when they pull a permit they say

1 yes or no I'm going to do a blower door test. Have we
2 gone back and ran a report to see how many contractors
3 have run a blower door test? Not, not as of this day.
4 This past year with the whole Covid, the amount of
5 inspectors that we are afforded and what we're able to
6 compensate, uh, local inspectors it's very challenging
7 for the local jurisdictions to keep up with an energy
8 code that's more about being comfortable in your home
9 and saving energy. We get it. We understand the
10 energy problem.

11
12 But ultimately, I, I wanted to come up here and stand
13 and talk about the life safety aspect of the codes,
14 the building -- the commercial code and the
15 residential code. We work very, very hard to make
16 sure that we perform really good inspections in the
17 City of Meridian to protect the, the, the -- our, our
18 public, our citizens, and it, it helps our economic
19 development.

20
21 Ultimately the answer to the question if we're going
22 to start at zero, I'm in favor with the 2018 current
23 adopted codes. Uh, they meet minimum criteria for
24 life safety for commercial and residential buildings.
25 Uh, there's not a whole lot of change in our codes



1 when it comes to life safety. It's typically on the
2 energy side, um, of increasing our values for
3 insulation or, or creating these blower door testing
4 to create tighter homes. So, uh, any other questions
5 on that?

6 Frost: I would just ask a follow-up. What would you like to see
7 amended to that rule? Would you like to see it
8 reduced? Would you like to see it removed? 'Cause
9 right now by rule we have to abide by it.

10 Zahorka: Correct. And so again, as a local jurisdiction the
11 State of Idaho adopts the minimum codes. We cannot be
12 less restrictive than those codes, but we can be more
13 restrictive and we have to do that through a city
14 ordinance, a city, uh, process. Uh, so my personal
15 opinion I think to adopt an energy code every three
16 years is, is very costly, uh, for contractors, and
17 it's hard to enforce for a jurisdiction.

18
19 And so I, I, I speak at BCA, uh, every month. I go to
20 stakeholder meetings at the City of Meridian, and, and
21 I just really, really, uh, um -- all the time of
22 trying to get the contractors to come to these types
23 of forums, get involved with the legislature, talk to
24 the State of Idaho before they adopt the minimum
25 codes. Um, it's a life safety thing for me. Uh, the



1 energy codes is a comfort thing and it's an energy
2 savings, uh, uh, thing and that is what it is. But if
3 you ask me personally, I would remove the blower door
4 testing, um, from, from the current energy code.

5 Egan: Another follow-up for you. Do you feel that
6 commercial portion of the energy code is equally
7 egregious as the residential portion or do you think -
8 -

9 Zahorka: I --

10 Egan: -- the commercial is, is fine --

11 Zahorka: I, I think the commercial is fine. I haven't heard
12 anything, any, any complaints from commercial
13 contractors. Uh, our commercial -- in the State of
14 Idaho, uh, anybody can design a home. Uh, so when you
15 get to the, the ener- -- the commercial side you have
16 engineers and architects involved and designing those
17 homes and, uh, I haven't heard any feedback on the
18 commercial side that it's, that it's, it's
19 overwhelming or, or --

20 Egan: And that includes from an inspection side of things.

21 Zahorka: Correct. Yeah. We don't have any -- um, I don't see
22 a lot of commercial contractors here or developers or
23 -- and maybe again I see your point, maybe your -- the
24 other gentleman's point that they thought this was a
25 licensing thing. Um, but ultimately I don't get any

1 feedback from the commercial side to say that the
2 codes are overburden, um, on the energy code side.

3 Egan: How about for existing buildings? Again, no --

4 Zahorka: No, no feedback there. The existing building code,
5 uh, we, we currently have an existing building code
6 which is a relaxed code from the International
7 Building Code as you were building brand new. I
8 haven't heard any feedback from any- -- anyone. The
9 only concern that I have is the 2021, uh, building
10 codes that are, that are coming up for accessibility,
11 uh, provisions. Uh, it's going to increase the size
12 of those, those restrooms quite a bit and so that's
13 the only feedback that I've heard. We don't have a
14 lot of opportunity to talk to contractors, um, other
15 than going to building contractor association every,
16 every month which is a residential only forum. Um, so
17 I haven't had any feedback on that.

18 Egan: Okay. Good. Thank you.

19 Frost: I have sort of an opinionated question but what, um --
20 do you think the current process by which, you know,
21 the state and the board can set the standards and
22 create exemptions but then the cities don't have the
23 flexibility to create additional exemptions. Should
24 that part be changed? And then I guess the vice
25 versa, the opposite. Should cities be able to



1 restrict beyond what the board has said for their
2 exemptions?

3 Zahorka: I, I really don't think any change is needed. I think
4 the state has done a really good job vetting the
5 codes. Uh, the only other -- only time that I, I
6 would say otherwise is when the full fire sprinklers
7 in residential, uh, not that that's a bad thing, uh,
8 to remove that from our rural areas and the reason,
9 uh, that they did. Uh, the problem is when they, they
10 make changes to the code, other things in the code
11 don't happen. For example, if you put a sprinkler
12 system, active suppression system in a building, you -
13 - that relieves a lot of sheetrock, a lot of different
14 other items, travel distances get changed.

15
16 So ultimately if the state has done a really good job,
17 I don't see any changes needed there. Um, you know,
18 in the City of Meridian, we're only -- uh, there's
19 only a few items that we're more restrictive than the
20 state. Uh, for example five-eighths type x on the
21 garage side of a, of a house. It's a fire code
22 sheetrock, half inch is not. Uh, so those types of
23 things. So I, I wouldn't make any changes. No.

24 Frost: Thank you for your comments.

25 Zahorka: Yep.

1 Egan: Thank you. Please come up to the podium.

2 Graham: I don't know. I guess I must like to talk. Bruce
3 Graham, Quality Heating again. So any time we put in
4 high efficiency equipment, build a hou- -- build a
5 structure very efficiently, etcetera, it only lasts as
6 long as the maintenance lasts on it. I was here last
7 hour. You didn't have nearly enough air pressure
8 coming in here. I mean I have a lung problem. I, I
9 am short on oxygen. I felt it as soon as I walked in
10 -- walked into the building. This system isn't being
11 maintained properly.

12
13 Okay. Soon as you put -- soon as you tighten up a
14 house, make it really nice and type and then you bring
15 in the prescribed amount of fresh air to make the
16 house breathe properly again, okay, that only works
17 until the customer goes I don't like paying to heat
18 that fresh air, and they go shut it off. Okay. Now
19 that house is unhealthy. We had healthier houses when
20 the wind blew through them, much healthier. Okay.

21
22 Now you get to the energy side. Okay. We're going to
23 put all these dollars into building a, a energy-
24 efficient home and we're going to make the HVAC
25 contractor come in and we're going to make him put in



1 fresh air and heat that fresh air and we're going --
2 wait a minute. That was an energy-efficient home, but
3 we're heating fresh air. Okay. That's kind of an odd
4 scenario to start with. But then we'll let them put
5 in a 2 million BTU fire pit out there in their
6 backyard. What's energy efficient about a fire pit?

7
8 You know, these energy codes just get so ridiculous to
9 me, and I live in Grangeville where we don't have
10 building departments. Okay. So then they come in and
11 hit the HVAC contractor, and we have to do a heat loss
12 calculation manually, design, and the inspector gets
13 there and he goes there's only one window on your plan
14 in this bedroom. They added another window or they
15 decide they wanted an access out to the patio so they
16 put in a sliding glass door. Now they go you have to
17 resubmit your plans.

18
19 Did that extra window really make that big a
20 difference on the design of my heating system?
21 Especially when I know that I can manipulate that
22 heating program, on a 3,000 square foot building, I
23 can manipulate that program up or down two, uh, two
24 tons with air conditioning. Okay. I also know that
25 if I submit that I'm putting in a three-ton unit,



1 he'll let me put in a five-ton unit. As long as I go
2 over, he'll let me go up to double.

3
4 So what is -- you know, let's get back to life safety.
5 You were talking about life safety. I'm, I'm real big
6 on life safety. Okay. When the inspector comes out
7 does he ever do a temperature rise on my furnace?
8 Never. That's going to tell him most of the story
9 right there. If that furnace is running properly, I'm
10 going to be in that 40-degree or 60-degree temperature
11 rise that's stated on that furnace, that piece of
12 equipment right now, if I'm moving enough air, moving
13 proper air, etcetera.

14
15 It's the contractor's responsibility to make sure that
16 that air gets to the proper rooms, to the proper
17 places, etcetera, etcetera. And if he leaves that
18 ductwork unconnected in the attic, more than likely
19 the homeowner is going to be suing when they get the
20 bills for a year. Yeah.

21 Frost: Bruce, if I may, back to your comment on mechanical
22 ventilation, currently the IDAPA (ph) rules in the
23 building code have amended the acknowledgement of
24 homes that breathe that are over five-meter changes
25 per hour, and they amended it to state that no matter

1 how leaky the house is you have to bring in fresh air
2 therefore making it your responsibility as an HVAC
3 contractor. Do you feel like that rule is over
4 regulatory and should be removed? Is it unfair to ask
5 the HVAC contractor to say, hey, you have to bring in
6 fresh air? Any residential construction no matter how
7 leaky the house is whether it's a log home,
8 manufactured home --

9 Graham: Yeah. I, I, I think every house needs to be taken
10 into account for what the construction type is --

11 Frost: Okay.

12 Graham: -- how it, how it, how it breathes. I have one
13 contractor who built -- who builds a really tight
14 house. I have another contractor who you don't want
15 to stand in the middle of it when the wind's blowing
16 because your hair is going to get mussed, you know,
17 etcetera. So you know, every contractor is different.
18 Now you guys have building inspectors down here that
19 are, that are inspecting it for that. We, we don't
20 with the -- when we have a building inspector up there
21 it's in the city, and he's coming in and inspecting
22 structure, you know, safety. He's not inspecting for,
23 for energy, etcetera.

24
25 Um, also big difference is in the way the code's



1 looked at. So I design a heating system for a school
2 up there, state owned. Okay. And I have to bring in
3 all this fresh air from outside to each one of the
4 classrooms, etcetera, and we have to have economizers
5 and we have to have powered exhaust to compensate for
6 the amount of air that we need to bring in to cool the
7 room with the economizer. This is all great, and I
8 didn't have -- don't have a big problem with it.

9 Frost: So question for you on that, Bruce, if I may, about
10 economizers.

11 Graham: Mm-Hmm.

12 Frost: Based on the energy code from a commercial
13 perspective, the Building Board has created an IDAPA
14 rule that says you don't have to bring in outside air
15 through an economizer if there's unusual outdoor air
16 contaminant conditions.

17 Graham: Right.

18 Frost: Would you like to see that expanded on? Would you
19 like to see that removed, that entire section deleted
20 based on your comment with economizers?

21 Graham: I, I, I think that -- yes. That, that rule actually
22 is good, and there is a lot of places where you have
23 contaminated area. You have -- and, and if you're
24 doing control systems, you have the ability to monitor
25 the outdoor air versus the indoor air.



1 Frost: Right.

2 Graham: Etcetera, etcetera. But that's another level, another
3 level up.

4 Frost: Okay. What about outside contaminant conditions?
5 What about weathered conditions? Like the school that
6 we talked about that you're referring to --

7 Graham: Yeah.

8 Frost: -- you know, design temperature during the wintertime
9 when students are in class --

10 Graham: Okay. So, so that, that was my lead into this next
11 one. So now I got a private school, Catholic school.
12 They're putting a big, big wing on doubling the size
13 of their school, etcetera. And we do design it for,
14 uh, force air heating systems with fresh air, all this
15 stuff. They can put in filtered air and everything.
16 It's too much money for them, so they decide if
17 they're going to just put in hot water radiators. And
18 they've got enough windows that they qualify for that
19 as their being fresh air in for these kids. Okay.
20 Now we're talking about kids. And every family
21 doesn't necessarily know what's going into this
22 building. They're assuming their kids are going to be
23 healthy, right? Building is being built tight, but
24 now it's up to this teacher to go open the window.

25



1 So in this, in this situation the general contractor
2 actually did the plumbing and the heating work and got
3 the plumber to sign off of it -- off -- you know, put
4 it under his tag because it was, uh, hydronic. Okay.
5 So they didn't even have to get us involved 'cause I
6 was insisting on fresh air. And they don't even have
7 enough heat there to heat that room if they opened up
8 the windows to get some air in there for them kids.
9 So it's a, it's a mixed ballgame.

10

11 All these regulations and regulations and regulations
12 doesn't mean that the job is going to get done right.
13 So I keep coming back and saying we need regulations,
14 but it needs to be life safety regulations. And fresh
15 air is actually a life safety.

16 Frost: That's what I was going to say.

17 Graham: Life safety thing. And just because you can open, can
18 open a window, when you're talking about public
19 buildings, just because you can open an window doesn't
20 mean it's going to get done. I wanted to prop these
21 doors all open when I walked in here. Sorry if I
22 rambled too much.

23 Frost: Thank you, Bruce.

24 Lamp: Good morning, everyone. I appreciate the opportunity
25 to, to speak and to have this kind of a forum. I



1 think it's very, very important. My name is Kelly
2 Lamp. I represent National Electrical Contractors
3 Association. I represent about 20 electrical
4 contractors in the state. I was here for the
5 electrical portion and, uh, definitely just trying to
6 learn some information coming into the other boards
7 here. And, uh, I also sit on, uh, National Electrical
8 Code, uh, one of the geeks I guess you could say to
9 sit down and, and write the code.

10
11 And I would be very much in favor of, of saying that,
12 that safety codes are at a minimum necessary to be
13 adopted as those new codes come out in that you've got
14 International Code Council. You have ASHRAE. You
15 have the electrical code. And these groups will
16 collaborate on other codes and standards. As they get
17 developed, if ASHRAE changes something, if the Uniform
18 Plumbing Code or International Building Code changes
19 something, the other codes will look at that and say
20 how do we have to change because what are we going to
21 have to do differently based on the building code
22 requirements, envelope requirements, airflow
23 requirements, things of that nature. When it comes
24 down to NFPA 72 for fire alarm code, how often do you
25 have air changes? How close can we put the sprinklers

1 in the fire alarm system to registers for HVAC?

2 Things of that nature.

3

4 So to do what is kind of recently happened when we
5 come into a, a building code, uh, recently the state
6 has adopted, uh, the revised definition of heavy
7 timber construction and said, hey, we like this.

8 Let's adopt this. Well I think it's going to become a
9 very, very dangerous slope to go down where you stick
10 with the 2018 building code and say, hey, this works
11 out. Let's just adopt the individual things we like
12 out of the revised codes but not adopt the entire
13 thing.

14

15 Now when you have the fire alarm code, the energy
16 code, uh, all of these other life safety standards
17 that are adopting to the new codes and standards but
18 the state is not adopting that standard you have a lot
19 of correlation issues. Now you're going to end up
20 with building officials that are looking for
21 interpretations from the city, the state, whomever to
22 say wait a minute we haven't adopted the new building
23 code but all these other life safety codes reference
24 this, but we haven't done it.

25



1 So now we're kind of in a, a quandary to what is the
2 requirement going to be whereas an adoption of those,
3 uh, developed standards by industry professionals,
4 they self-collaborate within themselves to ensure we
5 can create a good building envelope and a safe
6 environment for, uh, anybody that's in there. So I
7 would be a proponent of that.

8
9 And if you look at the current, uh, electrical code or
10 the rules, uh, the building code rules, the plumbing
11 rules, typically they say we're going to adopt this
12 standard, this updated standard but here's a laundry
13 list of things we're going to exclude. That seems to
14 be a, a good consensus process within the State of
15 Idaho, you know, from the electrical code no we're not
16 going to do it this way even though the, the, the code
17 requires that this is to be done. We take exemption
18 to that, not exemption to the entire standard itself.

19
20 We also have to remember that whether we're talking
21 about homes or businesses, almost every building that
22 is built is based on transient occupancy. Just
23 because this homeowner wants this or wants that, guess
24 what, they're not going to live in that house for the
25 entirety that that structure exists. It's based on



1 transient occupancy.

2

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So now when a new owner comes in whether it's a dwelling unit, whether it's a commercial property and they hire an inspector to come in and say, hey, I want this home inspection done, the home inspector says okay. The house was built in 2005. What were the code requirements in 2005 so I can inspect that to make sure it was done to code for the year it was built? Now we start implementing well we didn't adopt this code, we didn't adopt that code, but we did this one and did that one. That's going to create a nightmare of saying was this house built safely at the time it was built and how do we give you a report that says, guess what, these safety features, these life safety features were not included in this house because the State of Idaho did not adopt this code and that code. They just picked the heavy timber part out of it that they liked but not all the rest of it.

So I think there's a very broad discussion to be had of saying adopt the codes, and we can modify those locally for the interested parties in the State of Idaho if you don't want, uh, the things like economizers, things like that. Okay. Let's have that



1 discussion, not just eliminate adoption of code
2 altogether and then just pick out the good things you
3 want because that's really going to create a
4 collaborative issue of a lot of different codes that
5 don't match language back and forth. Yes, Mr. Frost.

6 Frost: Thanks for your comment. Um, one of the follow-ups I
7 guess I would have is when our -- when we adopt a code
8 whether it's a legislature officially adopting a code
9 or if we're officially adopting a code and we're going
10 through the process to evaluate that particular code
11 adopted for what exemptions or deletions do you think
12 is the right process for us to do as a division to,
13 um, evaluate the life safety measures of the elements
14 of those code and -- in other words, it's kind of an
15 open comment of like is this the type of venue to do
16 that, talk about those exemptions? How should we work
17 with our boards to evaluate the life safety features
18 of whatever code that they're adopting?

19 Lamp: And, and that's a great question, and I think that
20 we're kind of on the pathway of creating a, uh,
21 collaborative effort like this venue that we see right
22 here where we're going to be looking at the 2021 IBC.
23 Okay. Get all of the interested parties in the room
24 to discuss what are the benefits of adopting this code
25 and what are things that were put in there for

1 economy, uh, not life safety issues and are those
2 things that we need to exclude?

3
4 And just like promulgated rulemaking goes around the
5 state and says this is the way you have to negotiate a
6 promulgated rule change such as do we want to
7 incorporate this exemption into the IBC? If you show
8 up and you participate and you tell them why this is
9 a, a -- this is a financial issue, this is not a life
10 safety issue, you know, things of that nature, you're
11 going to get the feedback so that the board isn't
12 dictating to industry what should be excluded from the
13 different codes and standards. The industry is
14 telling the boards this is how we feel about the IBC,
15 the IRC, the plumbing code, ASHRAE, and the
16 information they're putting out.

17
18 And, and again, trying to keep it on the life safety
19 issue because a lot of these standards are now
20 actually moving toward efficiencies and economies and
21 it's like really. The additional expense that that
22 puts on the building individual, the developer. Is
23 that a life safety issue? I think those are things
24 that can be addressed individually, not just we're not
25 going to adopt it but we're just going to take things



1 we like out of it as it gets developed.

2 Frost: Thank you for --

3 Lamp: So public input and collaboration I think is going to
4 be the biggest key, and if you go to the legislature
5 and the legislature should have the opinion of, you
6 know, if somebody is speaking out against the adoption
7 of, of rules that DOPL is putting out there, the
8 legislature's first question should be were you
9 involved in that collaborative process. If they say
10 no, say please make sure you're involved in that
11 collaborative process but don't come to us in the 11th
12 hour to get something changed based on your personal
13 opinion where you didn't be a part of the
14 collaborative process. All right?

15 Frost: Thank you.

16 Lamp: Thank you.

17 Volmean: Hi there. Jason Volmean (ph). Thanks for having us.
18 Uh, I just want to touch on the energy code a little
19 bit. Well a few things, listening to everyone talk.
20 Um, start with the licensing really. Uh, HVAC,
21 plumbing, and electrical, the only ones that are
22 licensed. I mean you've got sheer walls inside with
23 sheetrock that have to be screwed off or nailed off
24 properly. I think we need some, uh, backing there on
25 licensing for other trades like framing. That's life



1 safety number one starting. So I, I think we need to
2 get a little more regulatory on that and see what we
3 can come up with there.

4
5 Uh, you know, as for like infiltration, ductwork and
6 all that, um, the houses are tighter. Blower door
7 test it tells you how tight the house is. I totally
8 get that. But we're being regulated on the front side
9 to bring in outside air. And the Manual J and all
10 that, I do all those for Ultimate, so I can see those
11 numbers within it. And you know, some of the houses
12 are loose, some are tight.

13
14 I've got one builder that built a house and didn't
15 tell me he was going to spray foam the whole attic, so
16 the house is very tight which we were having issues
17 with infiltration. And I went back out and added more
18 outside air which is obviously putting more damper on
19 the system. Uh, thankfully I went back in and double
20 checked and we were okay. We actually measured the
21 airflow. I worked with Jerry Peterson on this and got
22 it all rectified.

23
24 But you know, when it comes down to insulating, the
25 insulator was on the attic, stepped on a chase to the



1 fireplace, broke it down, you know, so it was
2 infiltration there. With the attic being spray
3 foamed, well they didn't spray foam that. The blowing
4 guy came in and did that. So it just causes more
5 problems for everybody else. So back to licensing and
6 regulatory there, just covers the contractors on the
7 front side doing their job right to code which don't
8 get me wrong, you know, they have to follow the code
9 too but who's watching or making sure they're doing it
10 right?

11
12 Uh, you know, the outsider, I think it's a good thing.
13 Unhealthy home not getting enough air changes, I get
14 that. The houses are so tight now, I don't know.
15 Like back in 2000 we did exhaust fans with timers.
16 Uh, I've got one builder that does that only. He
17 doesn't want fresh air brought in. So I mean and
18 that's between the builder and the energy guy he works
19 with to come up with that. I leave it to them. I
20 don't have any issues with that builder's house at
21 all.

22
23 Uh, you know, and going onto ducting and cost of
24 homes. Cost of homes are going up like crazy.
25 Building materials are going up like crazy. We're up

1 about 43 percent cost wise on every home we do which
2 obviously goes onto the homeowner. And then you're
3 talking about going with all the return duct going to
4 R8 on that.

5 Frost: Jason, can you elaborate a little bit on what is
6 creating that cost increase of 43 percent?

7 Volmean: So a lot of that's going to be steel and HVAC is 95
8 percent steel, right. I mean we manufacture all our
9 erect duct and everything in-house like I'm sure a lot
10 of guys do. And you know, even when you get down to
11 flex duct, it's got steel wire in it, all the raw
12 materials. Everything's a shortage. Labor's a
13 shortage. I don't know. I've got labor shortages.
14 I'm sure most of you do too. But with shortages
15 happening, um, both labor or whatever, and then the
16 cost of materials going up and I don't see, you know,
17 steel or anything coming back down. Furnaces, they're
18 not going to drop in price so adding to the cost.

19 Frost: So is there anything we can do from a regulatory
20 standpoint to reduce that cost?

21 Volmean: Right. So going towards that direction, you know,
22 jurisdictions are requiring R8 duct for returns. Uh,
23 you know, 20 years ago when we started doing this it
24 was all R6. Then it went to R8 supply. Fine. Now
25 they're doing R8 on returns which life safety, that's

1 not life safety. That's energy code. But there if
2 you're talking just return duct that's about 40
3 percent increase just on the return duct itself.
4

5 And you know, with me doing Manual J's, I can, you
6 know, dictate and tell the system or, uh, program to
7 do whatever I want it to do, but I can go back in
8 there and tell you that changing from R6 to R8 you're
9 going to save maybe 400 BTUs of load on the house
10 which isn't anything. Now if you're going to lower
11 the load on the house, then you're going to turn
12 around and make that system short cycle and when it
13 short cycles it beats up the equipment longer. The
14 longer it runs, the better off it is. But then when
15 it starts up and stops you're going to have a spike in
16 energy so the electricity bill is going to go up. So
17 to me that doesn't make sense.
18

19 And then what the energy code I believe says in Boise
20 City and I -- where we're working on this, if it's a
21 res track house, you can do R6. If it's a
22 prescriptive house, you got to do R8. To be honest
23 with you, the Manual J is the system prescriptive or
24 res check for the house. I mean it's -- you told me
25 what's going in it. As long as you do it, I covered



1 and we can make it work.

2

3 And then, you know, like balancing and all that, it's
4 all on the contractor. So contractor is not doing
5 things right. We need to catch that. Um, you know,
6 the jurisdictions, the Ada County, I'm not picking on
7 them but the building in Kuna, the building inspector
8 does the HVAC, but they don't know what HVAC is. So I
9 think we need a little help there just so they know
10 what they're looking at 'cause a lot of them that I
11 see that aren't good installs are usually in those
12 jurisdictions. And I've got an inspector that calls
13 me and says, hey, what do you think about this, and I
14 give him my two cents. You know, we do things
15 different at every company, and we've got a high
16 standard for ourselves. And I'd like everybody to do
17 it to our standard, but I mean code says minimum.
18 That's fine. I understand that. So --

19 Frost: Thank you.

20 Volmean: -- any questions? We're good.

21 Egan: Anybody else?

22 Johnson: I have a little bit more.

23 Egan: Okay.

24 Johnson: How do I identify? Um, Stanley Johnson, Heating
25 Equipment Company. I would like to go on record I too

1 would like to see blower door testing done away with.
2 I, I think if you're wanting input from people, more
3 people that speak up, maybe more impact it will have.
4 I don't think it's necessary.

5
6 Another thing in energy code that I would like to see
7 done away with is the, uh, 19 degree Delta T design in
8 Boise area for instance -- I'm just using Boise as an
9 example -- the customers aren't happy with a 19 degree
10 Delta T. And you have that home or move out and
11 somebody else move in with a heart condition, and if
12 you held them at 19 degree Delta T, they can die if
13 they overheat. I don't think that the government
14 should be regulating that. I think this is a
15 conversation for the contractor to have with his
16 customer. What are your expectations? How
17 comfortable do you want to be? Do you have health
18 issues? He should be covering that.

19
20 Um, and as, as other gentlemen have talked about,
21 there's ways of working around the code to get what
22 you want. It's true. If I've got a code official who
23 says that you're not going to be allowed to put in
24 this size of an air conditioner, then I'll put in a
25 dual fuel and I'll put in a heat pump because the heat



1 pump sized to the heating BTUs, therefore I got a
2 bigger air conditioner in the house. I mean, you
3 know, you, you can play those games. At the end of
4 the day I suppose I would like to see -- I would like
5 to see the 2018 code adopted and then go through it
6 point-by-point and take out the things that have been
7 mentioned here that don't make sense in my opinion. I
8 realize other people have their opinions too, but. I
9 would rather see it start from there and take out the
10 items then start with no code and try and build the
11 code.

12 Frost: Thank you.

13 Egan: Thanks.

14 Johnson: And then next starting at noon is licensing since
15 we've been talking about energy?

16 Frost: We're going to -- here in about 10 minutes we'll focus
17 on HVAC as a whole.

18 Johnson: Oh, I see.

19 Frost: Licensing is going to be --

20 Johnson: Okay. All right. Then I'll hold my comments on that
21 until then.


22 Egan: Any final comments for building or energy? Appreciate
23 all of you coming and willing to share with us, and
24 thanks for (inaudible - 01:08:05). Thank you.
25 Thanks.

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