

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 14, 2017

Governor Walker
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Walker,

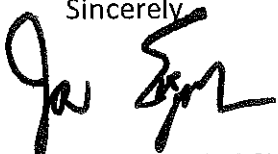
When people in Wisconsin build or purchase a new home they have an expectation that all of the industry standard safety measures in building are in place. This is a reasonable expectation. This is why we have put in place a system of building codes and inspections. People spending their hard earned money deserve to feel safe and secure with the knowledge that their investments and their families are safe. New building safety, whether residential or commercial, has never been a political issue in Wisconsin and we ask you to ensure that will be the case with the electrical and building code updates.

The advantages for citizens and businesses for adoption of the national building codes have been espoused for decades. Deviations from the national codes come when there is a specific recommendation that is simply not applicable in Wisconsin and only with the recommendation of the Electrical Advisory Committee affiliated with the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Because of that history, and the concern we all share for the personal safety and sound investment of Wisconsin families, it is alarming that the Department of Safety and Professional Services has chosen to ignore the recommendation of the Electrical Advisory Committee and despite objections and concerns for safety expressed by Fire Chiefs have chosen to move ahead with a code update that ignores the national standard in safety for GFCI and AFCI recommendations.

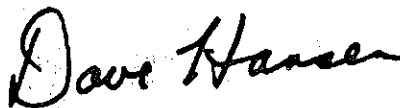
Both GFCI and AFCI help protect outlets from electrical accidents. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) help prevent burns, electric shocks and electrocution. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI) help prevent electric fires. Electricity can leak out of damaged or decaying wires and start a fire. These fires spread quickly in the wiring behind walls. Electric fires cause more damage than other types of fire, and are twice as deadly. AFCIs sense that electricity is leaking from the electric system and shut electricity off before overheating happens.

Please use your authority as the director of all state agencies to step in and instruct the Department of Safety and Professional Services to follow not only the national electrical code but more importantly the recommendations of the Electrical Advisory Council, whose members you appoint in your agency as professionals that know and understand their vocation much better than politicians and political appointees. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely



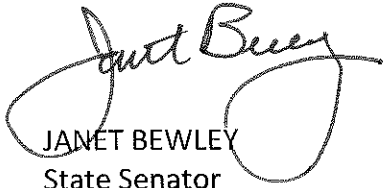
JON ERPENBACH
State Senator
27th Senate District



DAVE HANSEN
State Senator
30th Senate District



MARK MILLER
State Senator
16th Senate District



JANET BEWLEY
State Senator
25th District



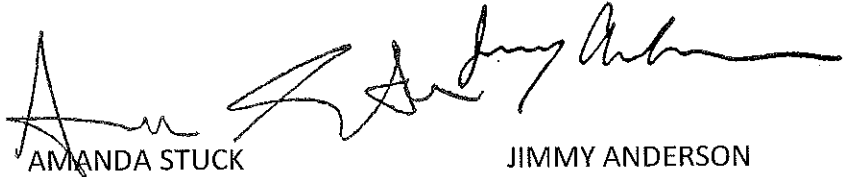
JANIS RINGHAND
State Senator
15th District



TIM CARPENTER
State Senator
3rd District




DIANNE HESSELBEIN
State Representative
79th District



AMANDA STUCK
State Representative
57th District

JIMMY ANDERSON
State Representative
47th District



DAVID CROWLEY
State Representative
17 District



SONDY POPE
State Representative
80th District



JOCASTA ZAMARRIPA
State Representative
8th District



TOD OHNSTAD
State Representative
65th District