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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Training the Next Generation of Building Safety Professionals

Madison – During week two of Building Safety Month the Alliance for Regulatory Coordination joins the International Code Council in encouraging individuals to consider a career as a building safety professional. We encourage ongoing training and professional development for those involved in building design, construction and regulatory services. And we encourage Wisconsin adoption of the *International Residential Code* as a way to expand the pool of candidates to fill important Wisconsin jobs in the fields of home design, construction, and inspection.

Importance of Training and Professional Development

Well-trained, motivated building safety professionals are key to creating and maintaining a successful built environment. Training is important because it helps code officials avoid mistakes and accidents and properly enforce the code. The building safety field encompasses a wide gamut of specialties and offers many excellent career opportunities that contribute to the safety of the built environment. Here is just a sampling:

- A **building inspector** inspects structures to determine compliance with the various building codes and standards adopted by the jurisdiction.
- A **building official** manages the development, administration, interpretation, application and enforcement of the codes adopted by their jurisdiction.
- A **special inspector** provides a specialized inspection of structural material fabrication and placement, such as poured concrete, structural steel installation and fasteners, etc.
- A **permit technician** assists in the issuance of construction and development permits to ensure compliance with the provisions of a jurisdiction's adopted regulations and codes.
- A **fire marshal** develops and delivers fire prevention and implements public fire safety programs that provide for inspections of occupancies for life safety and fire issues in accordance with codes and standards adopted by their jurisdiction.
- An **electrical inspector, mechanical inspector or plumbing inspector**, inspects the installation, maintenance and alteration of electrical, HVAC/mechanical, or plumbing systems, complete with their fixtures, equipment, accessories, and appliances.

Building Careers for Today's Generation

The building industry will experience a loss of 80 percent of the existing skilled workforce over a 15-year period, [according to a survey](#) conducted by the National Institute of Building Sciences in 2014. In fact, the entire building industry, including code officials, is looking at a severe workforce shortage of qualified candidates. This is a tremendous opportunity for job seekers!

The Code Council has developed [Safety 2.0](#) to welcome a new generation of members and leaders to the building safety profession. Programs include [High School](#) and [College Technical Training Programs](#) and a [Military Families Career Path Program](#) — which promotes building safety careers for military personnel after service. If you are a student or professional looking for a new career, check out the [Building Safety Career Path](#).

Wisconsin Adoption of the *International Residential Code* Can Help

Where nationally accepted model codes are adopted at the state or local level, the education and training of building safety officials is put to use more effectively. Throughout the United States, high school, technical college, and university curriculum for building safety professionals is based on nationally accepted materials, methods and sciences. This results in a national workforce with the same understanding, and using the same terminology, concerning building design, construction and regulatory services. Such a cohesive national workforce makes it easier to find talented professionals to fill the needs of citizens, businesses and communities.

For almost twenty years Wisconsin has benefited from this national cohesive workforce through the adoption of the International Building Code for the design and construction of commercial buildings in the state. However, Wisconsin remains the only state in the country to pass up that same opportunity when it comes to new home design and construction.

Wisconsin has not yet adopted the [International Residential Code](#) (IRC) for the design and construction of one- and two-family homes. We are the only state in the nation where the IRC is not utilized; putting us at a disadvantage when trying to recruit building safety professionals such as architects, engineers, and inspectors from out of state. Most out-of-state professionals are not familiar with Wisconsin's unique code for one- and two-family dwellings. When the talent pool is limited to Wisconsin, job vacancies and costly work delays can result. On the flip side, Wisconsin citizens can find that out-of-state job opportunities are limited due to their lack of knowledge and experience relative to the widely used International Residential Code.

The [Alliance for Regulatory Coordination](#) is a consortium of 23 business, professional, trade and advocacy organizations involved in building design, construction and regulatory services in Wisconsin. The Alliance seeks regulatory services provided in the most efficient manner possible to effectively promote the health, safety and welfare of Wisconsin citizens and visitors.

The [International Code Council](#) is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes.