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Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 12:21 PM
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Subject: Lightning Protection Florida Building Code

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is John Barber with Windemuller Technical Services. We are an Electrical Contractor in State of Florida. Established since 1954.

We specialize in Lightning Protection systems installations on existing and new construction from Residential, Commercial, and Heavy Industrial projects.

It has come to my attention that the Advisory committee for the Florida Building code is voting to adopt a code that ALL Commercial buildings above 2000 sq. feet MUST have a lightning protection system installed. While we may benefit from this code or adoption, we strongly oppose this adoption for a few reasons. Please see the attached additional information prepared by Linda Joseph concerning other issues and relevant information regarding this matter.

1st. The subject matter specifically states that the lightning protection system used SHALL be according NFPA 780 lightning protection Standard.

This eliminates the competitive trade practices and monopolizes one particular industry of lightning protection.

The NFPA 780 is for the conventional Faraday lightning systems only, and eliminates any options individual owners of any structure to choose between multiple options to protect their facility or structure.

2nd. Mandating that all commercial structures SHALL have lightning protection (while great for the lightning manufactures) puts an undo financial burden on owners considering building in the state of Florida and therefore inhibits growth, development, and job growth. Owners or developers may give second thought to constructing in Florida due to the added costs of a mandated code to add lightning protection to all structures without an option of lower costs for and equal or alternative system or the option of foregoing the need to have protection at their own discretion.

3rd. If this vote should pass and be adopted by the Florida Building code, this could be construed as a violation of the Sherman Act, anti-competitive trade, by monopolizing a single manufacturing industry over other competitive products.

4th. Shouldn't a vote of this magnitude mandating a code have the opportunity to be discussed, opined, and considered by other members of the construction industry, trade groups, owners, developers, Construction Managers, General Contractors, trade groups, Industry professionals, that will have a financial effect for the entire construction industry?

My request.

Could you please provide me with the actual date and location and department where this vote or consideration is taking place. I have repeatedly attempted to contact people and departments over the last year to get this information so as we have an opportunity to provide additional documentation for consideration on this issue. To no avail have I received any accurate dates, times, locations, etc. As a member of multiple construction trade organizations we would like to have an opportunity to either be present if allowed, or be able to respond with representation, opinions and considerations at these meetings that effect the Florida Building Code and all Construction industries.

You may contact me at the following

Your consideration and assistance is greatly appreciated.

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