BUILD WITH NON-COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS. FOR SAFETY. LONGEVITY. AND LIFE.

Fires of combustible materials are reducing apartment buildings to ashes and putting lives at risk. Why? Reckless changes to building codes are putting profits over safety by allowing 4-7 story structures to primarily be built with combustible materials like wood. Building above code with non-combustible, safer building requirements will save lives and protect communities.

NATIONWIDE DEVASTATION: HOW BUILDING CODE CHANGES LED TO AN INCREASE IN FIRES

2006 – 2008
Collapse of economy > homebuilders & wood associations anticipated increased multi-family demand > they lobbied to change building codes to benefit their industry > codes changed

Before 2006
4-7 story buildings were built with concrete and steel for maximum safety. These buildings were strong, durable and lasted generations.

Jan. 2015 – Edgewater, NJ
Stick-built 408-unit apartment complex – constructed in 2000
- $75 million in damages
- 500 people left homeless
- 250 firefighters

Dec. 2014 – Los Angeles, CA
Stick-built 526-unit apartment complex – under construction
- $170 million in total losses
- 110 Freeway closed
- 250 firefighters

Apr. 2017 – College Park, MD
Stick-built mixed-use complex with 275 apartments – under construction
- $39 million in damages
- Shut down University of Maryland; forced evacuation of senior-living center
- 200 firefighters, 2 injured

Weaker codes encourage inferior combustible materials to be used, resulting in rampant fires in wood-framed multi-family structures.

You have nothing but a vertical lumber yard with very limited protection … I think it’s a significant risk.

– Joseph Finn, Fire Commissioner, Boston

To learn more, please contact Build with Strength at 202-253-6402 or visit BuildwithStrength.com

CODE CHANGES COST MONEY AND LIVES

Insurers
- Increased actuarial risk
- Higher loss rates
- Lower shareholder profits

Building Owners
- Higher insurance premiums
- Lost revenue opportunity

Fire Marshals
- Death risk
- Firefighters and occupants have died

BUILD WITH STRENGTH
A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION