



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Coalition Launches to Support Safer Building Practices

Group includes industry and labor leaders from across the Commonwealth

Boston, MA — This week, Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, officially launched its coalition in Massachusetts. The group is supporting [House Bill 3844](#) that would strengthen local building codes through the use of non-combustible materials in commercial and residential construction.

Sponsored by Representative Dan Donahue (Worcester), the bill was most recently reported favorably to the House Committee on Ways and Means from the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. The accompanying bill in the Senate, [S.1799](#), is sponsored by Senator Mike Brady (Second Plymouth and Bristol).

“It is exciting to see so much support from industry leaders and it gives me a feeling of confidence that this is the right thing to do. We need to consider the safety and resiliency of communities in Worcester and Massachusetts more broadly in this period of tremendous growth,” said Donahue. “In the context of the current Housing discussion, we need to make sure that our building codes are in the right place and H.3844 serves that purpose. I look forward to continued work with my colleagues in the legislature to enact policies that strengthen and protect future generations.”

Build with Strength works with communities, lawmakers, and industry employees to advocate for safer, sustainable building materials. Strengthening local and national building codes is among the organization’s top priorities.

The coalition in Massachusetts includes the following organizations to date: Massachusetts Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association, Mason Contractors Association of Massachusetts, Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Union Local 3, Ironworkers Local 7-Boston, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 4, Teamsters Local 25, Steel Framing Industry Association, Northeast Precast Concrete Association, Portland Cement Association, New England Concrete Manufacturers Association, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association and American Concrete Pumping Association.

The legislation calls for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, measuring the number of stories from the grade plane, using noncombustible materials for construction, and installing a fire barrier with a fire resistance rating of at least two hours that extends

from the foundation to the roof. In addition, the legislation calls for a fire-watch during construction, further enhancing fire-safety measures.

The legislation aims to combat a damaging trend of residential and commercial mid-rise construction fires because of the use of combustible materials. In 2017, [Waltham city councilors](#) voted unanimously to call on the state of Massachusetts to implement tighter restrictions on the size of wood-frame residential buildings after a massive ten-alarm fire destroyed a wooden apartment complex under construction.

“We have an obligation to the communities that we serve to build responsibly and with their safety in mind,” said Michael Hess, Business Manager with Ironworkers Local 7 in Boston. “Our members are fully supportive of this initiative and hope that the end result leads to quality jobs throughout the Commonwealth. Rep. Donahue has shown significant leadership in pushing this forward and we applaud him for his efforts.”

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

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