The U.S. Building Code Landscape – Analysis of Building Code Enforcement Efforts

*Big Policy – Part 2*

*Insight from ISO’s Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®) and The National Building Code Assessment Report*

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BCEGS Program
Data Collection and Analysis Efforts

*BCEGS is ISO’s unique program to measure resources and support made available to the enforcement of building codes and the utilization of those resources.*

- Started in 1995
- Evaluated nearly all building code departments in 45 States
- Field-verified data – Updated every 5 years
- 43 Million data elements in the BCEGS database – and growing

**Elements of a BCEGS Classification**

- Adopted codes and standards, including amendments
- Staffing levels of plan review and inspection efforts
- Qualifications and experience of personnel
- Training profile for all personnel
- Detail of plan review and inspections
- Legislative mandates and incentives
Effective Code Enforcement

*Code enforcement efforts are highly variable and are influenced by a number of factors.*

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The U.S. Building Code Landscape
State and Local - By the Numbers

5484  Average population serviced per building code official in the U.S.
2071  Average number of inspections conducted per inspector per year
  83   Percentage of building inspectors holding certification
  76   Percentage of plans examiners holding certification
  33   Average hours of technical training received by each inspector or plans examiner per year
  20   States in the U.S. that mandate some degree of building code enforcement
16.70 Average dollars per capita spent on building code enforcement department operations
  5   States in the U.S. that have weakened building codes below the model code limits
Hazard-Resistant Code Adoption and Enforcement

Adoption and enforcement in the U.S. is a patch-work.