



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 3, 2004

Dear Governor, Mayor, County Administrator, and State CIO:

As a founding partner of the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is pleased to be a contributor to the development of the materials for streamlining the building regulatory process provided on this CD-ROM for your use.

The work products developed by the Alliance on this CD-ROM provide your state or locality with valuable, proven tools that can reduce the regulatory cost of construction by as much as 40 percent. Tools generated this past year are helping our nation's information technology community to produce hardware and software to make information generated in the building regulatory and construction processes interoperable. The ability to seamlessly share information across regulatory functions and among levels of government should result in significant cost savings.

The interoperability of building regulatory information is especially important to homeland security and disaster preparedness and mitigation. The Alliance's work to provide rapid, accurate, and seamless transmission of construction information will lead to savings in both lives and financial resources. For example, their efforts are intended to make it possible to provide as-built designs of structures to first responders as they arrive on site. This work also should reduce the amount of time it takes to submit and have plans approved by your government for safety and security enhancements to buildings.

NIST's support for the Alliance's efforts to streamline the nation's building regulatory process through the effective and efficient use of information technology fits perfectly within NIST's goal to promote innovation, trade, security, and jobs. NIST, a non-regulatory agency, has worked for 100 years to address problems critical to the nation and the building and fire communities. To learn more about how NIST supports these communities, please visit our web site at www.bfrl.nist.gov.

Sincerely,

Hratch G. Semerjian
Acting Director