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**NATIONAL NEWS RELEASE**

**WHITE HOUSE & CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CALL FOR NATIONAL  
STREAMLINING EFFORT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY & DISASTER RESILIENCY**

July 5, 2011 – Washington, DC - In rapid succession throughout the month of June, reports and statements released by the White House and the nation's construction and disaster preparedness communities have called for a concerted effort by Federal, state and local governments to strengthen both economic recovery and the nation's disaster resiliency through streamlining of the building regulatory process.

June 13, in an opinion column in the Wall Street Journal, the Chairman of the President's Jobs and Competitiveness Council, Jeff Immelt (CEO of General Electric) and his Council colleague, Ken Chenault (CEO of American Express), listed "Streamline Permitting," as their second recommendation for "fast action steps" that can support the creation of more than one million jobs. "Cut red tape so job-creating construction and infrastructure projects can move forward. The administration can take a few simple steps to streamline the process of obtaining permits, without undercutting the protections that our regulatory system provides."

On June 29<sup>th</sup> President Obama in his opening remarks at his national press conference reiterated the need for immediate government action to streamline permitting and cited directives he had sent to Federal agencies to begin that process.

June 14, similar recommendations regarding regulatory streamlining as it impacted the ability of communities to better prepare for, respond to and recover from major disasters, were included in the McGraw-Hill Construction / Engineering News Record, "Recommendations to Congress, the Administration and the Private Sector to Mitigate Impacts of Disasters by Planning and Building for Resiliency." The 16 page report summarizes insights and recommendations drawn from the March 2-3, 2-111 ENR Mitigating Disaster through Design and Construction Conference held in Washington, D.C...

Page 2 of that report specifically called for jurisdictions at all levels of government to, "Streamline regulations and regulatory processes to (better) enforce zoning regulations and building codes – including the applying of technology - to be as effective and

efficient as possible.” The report also called for aligning national policy on economic sustainability with disaster resiliency (page 11).

Since the summer of 2001, the national partners within the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age have worked cooperatively together to develop guides and other materials that jurisdictions can use to work with the private sector to successfully undertake regulatory streamlining. These materials and the recommended streamlining actions they describe are available both through the Alliance at FIATECH and Robert Wible and Associates through their websites: [www.fiatech.org](http://www.fiatech.org) and [www.natlpartnerstreamline.org](http://www.natlpartnerstreamline.org)

Streamlining time savings already being achieved by communities across the nation from applying Alliance recommended processes, procedures and technologies are reducing permit application, plan review and field inspection times by up to 80% of the traditional time it takes to move construction projects through those systems.

Among those recommended processes, procedures and technologies developed and/or promoted by the Alliance are:

- Conducting Regulatory Streamlining Roadmaps and Information Technology Road Maps
- Identifying and building stakeholder groups to work with jurisdictions to design and conduct regulatory streamlining and IT acquisition and use
- Application of ePermitting, ePlan Review and mobile field inspection technology
- Demonstrating and developing interoperable mobile field inspection technologies to build region wide rapid damage assessment networks
- Working with jurisdictions to adopt and implement the International Code Council's Guideline for Replicable Buildings which reduces plan review times by 70% for such structures.
- ROI studies and guides showing cost benefit of applying regulatory streamlining and IT

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MATERIALS PLEASE CONTACT: Robert Wible, Principal Robert Wible & Associates and FIATECH Streamlining Project Manager at: [rcwible@comcast.net](mailto:rcwible@comcast.net) and 703-568-2323.

