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2008 MAY -5 A 11: 52



April 30, 2008

Ms. Rosario Marin
Chair
California Building Standards Commission
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Express Terms for Proposed Building Standards of the Office of the State Fire
Marshall Regarding the 2007 California Fire Code, California Code of
Regulations Title 24, Part 9

Dear Chair Marin:

On behalf of CONNECT, which accelerates innovation in San Diego, I write in support of the above mentioned Express Terms being proposed by the State Fire Marshall (SFM) to be included in Section 443 of the 2007 California Building Code. In this section of the Code, the L-Occupancy provides important controls and safety provisions for any research and development laboratory containing hazardous materials in the State of California. The L-Occupancy is critical to the ongoing growth and development of the biotechnology industry in California.

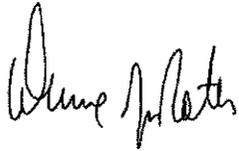
At CONNECT, we mentor new innovative biotech companies in San Diego on a daily basis. The growth and sustainability of these start-up companies is crucial to the economic health and future of San Diego and our entire state. The biotech sector is a quickly evolving industry that requires a broad range of biological and chemical work to be performed in a laboratory environment. These facilities are best located in proximity of major research institutions, such as UC San Diego. Researchers at educational institutions are also performing similar experimental activities. Thus, clarifying and codifying the L-Occupancy in the 2007 California Building Code for use by any research and development laboratory will ensure that all such facilities be developed with the same controls and safety provisions.

CONNECT's understanding is that the State Fire Marshall has the authority to propose these code amendments as described in the California Health and Safety Code Section 18949.2(b). The State is well served by the work that the State Fire Marshall has done in

ensuring that all laboratory facilities throughout the State of California are built to the same safe standards.

Given this, CONNECT supports the proposed Express Terms as they serve to clarify the requirements for any research and development laboratory and to enhance the safety measures and controls that will ensure safe operations. As such, I encourage you to adopt the Express Terms as submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane J. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Duane J. Roth
CEO
CONNECT