



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

CODE INFORMATION

Proposed change to: Building Code Fire Safety Code

Code section(s): _____

PROPONENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Representing: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____
Street Address Town State Zip Code

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Description of change and reason for change (attach additional information as needed):

Proposed text change, addition or deletion (attach additional information as needed):

Supporting data and documents (attach additional information as needed)

This Proposal is original material. (Note: Original material is considered to be the submitter’s own idea based on or as a result of his/her own experience, thought or research and, to the best of his/her knowledge, is not copied from another source.)

This Comment is not original material, its source (if known) is as follows: (such as material / code development proposal from a prior development cycle or proposal submitted to model code committee etc.)

I would like to make an in-person presentation of my proposal.

Release

I hereby grant the State of Connecticut full rights to the use of this material without benefit to me, including, but not limited to, publication and reproduction rights.

Proponent’s Signature _____

Printed Name _____

PLEASE EMAIL (PREFERRED) TO DAS.CodesStandards@CT.GOV OR MAIL OR FAX (SEE BELOW)

Department of Administrative Services
Office of the State Building Inspector
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1303
Hartford, CT 06103
Tel: 860-713-5900 Fax: 860-713-7410
Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



June 19, 2024

Omarys C. Vasquez | State Building Inspector
Office of the State Building Inspector
Department of Administrative Services
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1303
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Inspector Vasquez -

The Connecticut Solar & Storage Association (CONSSA) has reached agreement with state fire services officials on a code change that will give single-family homeowners an opportunity to maximize the amount of electric generation they can harvest from their rooftop using solar, while importantly maintaining a safe working environment should firefighters require rooftop access.

Recent amendments to the residential structure setback requirements within the 2022 CT SBC, specifically regarding the *ridge setback* provisions inadvertently restrict project size and homeowners' ability to fully benefit from the financial and environmental benefits of solar power. Simply put, setbacks on rooftops where solar is installed can shrink the number of rows of panels that can be installed.

Specifically, R324.6.2 (Setback at Ridge) introduced a complicated formula to determine ridge setback length (how close solar panels can be placed to the ridge) based on solar rooftop coverage. Local building officials have expressed various ways of interpreting this ratio creating confusion and uncertainty for home solar installer contractors during the project design/permit process.

Over the past year, CONSSA has met multiple times with the Joint Council of CT Fire Service Organizations to discuss a code change that would eliminate ridge setbacks on residential rooftops where solar is installed, so long as the opposite side of the roof is clear of solar panels and accessible to firefighters. This had been policy in Connecticut for years.

Fire service officials' reaction to eliminating the setback altogether was mixed. Firefighting operations experts feel removal of this setback would not provide spacing for hooks on a roof ladder to be placed over the peak to keep the ladder in place while firefighters perform ventilation if needed and that 12-inches from the ridge on rooflines with solar should be maintained as a setback to be safe for roof ladder placement.

CONSSA agrees with the fire service 12-inch ridge setback stance.

-more-

In light of this, we request consideration for an amendment to IRC code article [R324.6.2 Setback at Ridge](#). Our proposal is to maintain the 36" setback when solar is installed on two adjoining rooflines (i.e. 18" on both sides of Gable roof peak) and introduce a 12" setback exception for installations on single roof slopes with clear access on the opposing non-solar slope. See below.

Existing [R324.6.2 Setback at Ridge](#)

For photovoltaic arrays occupying not more than 33 percent of the plan view total roof area, not less than an 18-inch (457 mm) clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge. For photovoltaic arrays occupying more than 33 percent of the plan view total roof area, not less than a 36-inch (914 mm) clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.

Proposed New [R324.6.2 Setback at Ridge](#)

For photovoltaic arrays not less than an 18-inch (457 mm) clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.

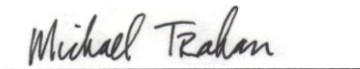
Exceptions:

Where photovoltaic arrays are installed on only one roof slope of a single ridge roof and there is clear access on the opposing slope and that opposing slope has at least one roof access point in accordance with [Section R324.6.3](#), not less than an 12-inch (457 mm) clear setback is required on the roof slope containing the photovoltaic arrays.

We are fully committed to working collaboratively with your office and relevant stakeholders to address these concerns.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of discussing these matters further and are more than willing to provide any additional information or clarification as needed.

Sincerely,



Michael Trahan
Executive Director