

Sandi Gilbertson

From: Nancy Jones
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Sandi Gilbertson
Subject: FW: [POSSIBLE Malware MESSAGE] Building Code Options

From: Eric Pedersen <ericpedersenphotography@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:15 AM
To: kcbooc <kcbooc@kcgov.us>
Subject: [POSSIBLE Malware MESSAGE] Building Code Options

Dear County Commissioners,

I built a home myself in Boise--framing, electric, plumbing, everything. My interaction with code was very surprising. Building code is not for the protection of the people. It is for the protection of the builders, and everyone in related fields. Code helps prevent homeowners from building themselves, and sends business to contractors, lenders, subs, engineers, architects, real estate agents, etc.

We should remove code for the following reasons:

- 1- Removing code will encourage homeowners to build themselves. We built our own home (very high quality--no cheap materials) for \$30/square foot. It would have cost \$80/sq ft to have a builder do it. If people are able to build for less, they will be able to afford to build better quality.
- 2- Building code is much less "making sure it's done right" as it is limiting your options. Designing an efficient home is literally near impossible with code. Code, in our case, added roughly 13% to the cost of our home, and added no quality whatsoever.
- 3- Safety. The main reason for building code is supposedly safety. But one of the leading causes of death in homes (due to construction) is from fires, and because i-joists burn up so quickly, that people fall through the floors and are unable to get out of the home before too much smoke inhalation. And what is the main reason for i-joists over dimensional lumber? - speed. They're faster, lighter, don't warp, and are easy to run plumbing through. Does the use of i-joists seem to be for our safety or the convenience/speed of contractors?

People always assume no code equals junk houses. I come from a family of builders. My wife and I built our own house to a much higher/safer standard than my two brothers (who are licensed contractors) do. We simply don't want code because we want to be able to build more efficiently, to build without the hassle and added expense of permits and inspections, and frankly because we enjoy our liberty. For some people, building themselves may be their only chance of living in a nice home, of getting ahead in life.

It's not fair to compare areas with building code to the quality of homes built in areas that don't have codes; because often areas that don't have building codes are very rural, and people tend to be poor, and that tends to be the reason for some of those homes not being built well, not the lack of code.

The real question we have here is do we want to violate people's liberty and prevent them from pulling themselves out of poverty? Or do we want to send more business to builders, architects, etc.?

Eric Pedersen
(208) 422-4892
ericpedersenphotography.com
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