



# Building Safety Alliance

November 19th, 2025

Streamlining Task Force Commission  
Attn: Mr. Ed Harrington, Chair  
1 Dr, Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 362  
San Francisco, CA 94102,

Dear Chair Harrington,

The Building Safety Alliance opposes making the Building Inspection Commission advisory only and eliminating the Code Advisory Committee. These bodies were established to promote transparency and to allow public input into inspections and proposed regulations.

**Losing these bodies will slow down permitting, create confusion, and threaten public safety.**

Before the BIC was created, building code enforcement was handled by the Bureau of Building Inspection as part of the Department of Public Works and did not involve public input.

Public dissatisfaction with this system's responsiveness led to the formation of the current BIC.

- Changing the Building Inspection Commission (BIC) from an oversight to an advisory body will not simplify government. It could create a situation in which public safety policy decisions are made in private, without public input or accountable transparency.
- The Code Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Building Inspection Commission is an effective public body, with highly trained, specialized experts in construction, maintenance, and systems such as electrical, mechanical, and plumbing. It provides valuable real-world input on proposed regulations that improve the permitting process and safety for residents and businesses across San Francisco.
- The CAC reviews local building code amendments to ensure they comply with the next cycle of the California Building Code, protecting people and property in San Francisco. It also reviews all proposed ordinances impacting the Building Codes.
- The CAC operates as a public body with open meetings, public input, and published minutes to ensure transparency and efficiency in all of their work as a commission.

Replacing the current open meeting system with a passive one will limit public input opportunities. It could also increase pressure on the Department of Building Inspection staff and Commissioners from those seeking to weaken building codes designed to protect residents and property in San Francisco.

Any issues at the BIC were due to individuals and leadership, **not** because of the commission structure. Making the BIC advisory only and eliminating the CAC will reduce transparency into building inspections and safety in San Francisco. It will create confusion and push more work to already understaffed departments that could slow down an already historically long and difficult to navigate permitting process in San Francisco.

Daniel V. Fross, Executive Director | David Green, Secretary / Treasurer | James Reed, Director | Henry Karnilowicz, Director

Cathleen M. Lagomarsino, Chair | Seamus Canning, Director | Brendan Greene, Director | Mark Stone, Director

As Proposition E states, in the findings on the goals of the commission structure:

*“San Francisco’s commissions leverage the perspectives, lived experiences, and*

*expertise of the City’s residents, and ensure that important policy decisions are not made behind closed doors by a powerful few, but through a public and participatory process that is informed by the very people whom those decisions will impact.”*

This is precisely what the Building Inspection Commission and Code Advisory Committee do today and do well.

We appreciate your work and your interest in improving San Francisco’s commission structure. The changes you are considering will not achieve the goals voters mandated in Proposition E.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

### **About Us**

[The Building Safety Alliance](#) is a coalition of electrical contractors and labor. Its Board of Directors has decades of experience in the electrical industry. This experience has demonstrated that specialty electrical inspection is the most efficient, cost-effective, and reliable way to ensure public safety.

A well-trained, experienced electrical inspector who enforces the National Electric Code, NFPA, Title 24 of the California Energy Efficiency Standards, and Local Codes can help electrical contractors achieve a safe, code-compliant installation.

Sincerely,



Daniel V. Fross  
Executive Director

*Our Mission: To promote electrical safety by advocating through education and political activity that Authorities Having Jurisdiction employ qualified tradesmen for specialized electrical inspection of all new and modified electrical installations.*

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