



April 29, 2021

Mr. Ted Miltiades, Director
Office of Construction Codes & Industrialized Buildings
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Re: Energy, Residential, Building Amendments Subcommittee – Proposed Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission Amendments

Dear Mr. Miltiades:

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA), the only national trade group representing the structural pest management industry, would like to voice our support for the code amendments proposed by the Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission (GASPCC).

NPMA, a non-profit organization with more than 5,000 U.S. based pest management companies which account for about 90% of the \$9.4 billion U.S. structural pest control market, was established in 1933 to support the pest management industry. More than 80% of the industry is made up of small businesses, many of them with five employees or less. Across the country, termites cause more than \$5 billion in damage annually. NPMA's member companies provide termite control services for countless commercial, residential, and institutional settings.

NPMA supports the amendments proposed by the GASPCC. The proposed amendment ensures that the foundation/framing interface remains uncovered and allows pest management professionals the opportunity to visually inspect this crucial area. Our organization opposes code change recommendations that would result in covering these critical construction elements. By maintaining visual access in the manner proposed by the GSPCC, opportunities for early detection of subterranean termite infestation will be preserved, thereby safeguarding the structural integrity of Georgia buildings, and protecting consumers from costly termite damage and repairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Fredericks", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jim Fredericks, PhD, BCE
VP, Technical & Regulatory Affairs
National Pest Management Association
jfredericks@pestworld.org