

# AIA Nebraska

A Society of The American Institute of Architects



November 24, 2008

Ms. Catherine D. Lang  
Commissioner of Nebraska Department of Labor  
NWD-DOL  
550 S. 16th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4600

RE : Nebraska Conveyance Safety Code

Dear Ms. Lang:

The State of Nebraska is currently considering adopting the ASME A17.1 / CSA B44 – Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators. We commend the State for recognizing the need to have an updated safety standard for the elevators and escalators in the State of Nebraska. The American Institute of Architects Nebraska Chapter is in favor of adopting the new code unaltered that will allow the use of Machine Room Less elevators in the State of Nebraska. The MRL elevator is a proven and safe technology that is fully addressed in the ASME A17.1 Code and is installed worldwide. AIA NE urges the State to allow this technology which will provide many benefits to the State and its citizens. Several of these benefits include:

- MRL Technology provides up to 60% energy savings over the typical hydraulic elevator and 40% savings over the conventional traction elevator. This reduces the cost to operate a typical elevator for many years.
- MRL Technology is environmentally focused. It uses no hydraulic oil. The typical hydraulic elevator use 80 to 150 gallons of hydraulic oil that is at risk to be breached and spilled into the ground or can be a fire risk. The MRL elevator is not a risk to our fragile environment.
- MRL technology is a Green technology that can help contribute points towards a LEED Rating System.
- MRL technology reduces up front construction costs through the elimination of machine rooms and downsized power supplies. This saves building owners and developers upfront building costs and encourages new building development in Nebraska.
- MRL technology provides building developers and property owners new opportunities in building design and architectural statements, a positive incentive for investment and new development in Nebraska.

- MRL technology provides an alternate choice for an elevator product that allows fair and unrestricted competition among the elevator manufacturers that operate in the State of Nebraska.
- MRL technology has proven to be just as safe as or safer than the typical hydraulic or traction elevator and meets the requirements of the 2007 ASME A17.1 Elevator and Escalator Code.

We urge the State of Nebraska to adopt the 2007 ASME code that will allow unrestricted use of the MRL elevator and allow the citizens of the State of Nebraska to receive the full benefits of this safe and proven elevator product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Smith, AIA". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

Larry Smith, AIA  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara A. Kay". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sara A. Kay  
Executive Director