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June 4, 2019

Patrick Ryan, Chief Building Official
City of Vancouver
Development, Buildings, and Licensing
Ground Floor, 515 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5Z 4A8

Re: Proposed Changes to the Vancouver Building Bylaw

Dear Mr. Ryan:

On behalf of the 850 corporate members of the Urban Development Institute (UDI), I would like to thank you and the City of Vancouver Building department for the presentation you made to our Building Codes Committee on April 5, 2019, regarding the proposed changes to the Vancouver Building Bylaw (VBBL) for 2019.

With the recent updating of the B.C. Building Code, we appreciate the need to harmonize the VBBL with Provincial and Federal building codes while working on resiliency and climate adaptation. We welcome the inclusion of new and innovative options within the VBBL, reducing the need for alternate solutions. We are also pleased with the work that your department has undertaken to clarify definitions and standardize requirements throughout the Bylaw.

We appreciate the thorough efforts that you and your staff at the City of Vancouver have taken to review current building bylaw and the consultation with our industry. As stated at the April meeting, overall UDI supports the proposed changes to the bylaw. In particular we are pleased to see support for multi-level suites with a single egress, but would encourage consideration, and research if needed, on improving opportunities for multi-level suites without compromising safety. We would also like you to consider better facilitating small public roof decks, along with needed elevator and stair access. We believe the improved roof access facilitates building safety, rather than detracting from building safety.

In addition to the above comments, we hope that city staff will continue to engage with UDI and its members to provide additional clarification on the regulations as they are implemented, particularly related to fire alarm notification for balconies and roof decks as well as magnetic lock locations within mixed tenure buildings.

Thank you again for consulting the industry regarding these updates. We support the City's efforts to improve the efficacy of this bylaw in the Vancouver-specific context. If you have any questions about our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with the City of Vancouver on this and other initiatives in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne McMullin', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne McMullin
President & CEO