

January 2005 Update: Proactive and Recognized Force

The Aluminum Extruders Council's KAW (Keep Aluminum Windows) activities now encompass a far wider range and scope of activities than was ever envisioned when the campaign began three years ago. Born first as a reaction to activities being undertaken by the DOE relative to Energy Star, KAW is now a proactive and recognized force within those bodies in both commercial and residential activities. In recognition of the increasing complexities of our activities in 2004, we created a Technical Task Group whose charge it is to analyze all proposals put forth by government entities and coding bodies, as well as those we put forth, for their potential affect on aluminum fenestration products. We urge aluminum window manufacturers to participate in this as well as KAW overall. Remember, you don't have to be an AEC member to be involved in KAW. AEC/KAW also recognizes the void that exists for aluminum fenestration manufacturers to represent their interests. We welcome the opportunity to explore the means to give such voice a formal forum. Perhaps, an alliance, etc. within, or in conjunction with KAW/AEC. We solicit the comments of aluminum fenestration manufacturers in this regard.

It is apparent already that 2005 will hold a host of KAW activities. We will be present, with allied stakeholders, in Cincinnati in February to defend our proposals at the ICC Code Hearings. Plans are already underway to summon a meeting, again with diverse allied stakeholders with whom informal alliances have been forged, with top ranking DOE officials to bolster the case for a partial implementation of a performance based path for Energy Star –Windows.

The Aluminum Extruders Council is very pleased to be able to announce that the council has retained the services of Thomas D. Culp, PhD, Birch Point Consulting LLC, to act as our representative/consultant for the Keep Aluminum Windows (KAW) campaign in 2005 and beyond. With a BS and a PhD in Chemical Engineering plus an expansive related professional resume, Tom brings to the KAW campaign the technical expertise and code development experience we need as our efforts expand in reach and scope. His work over the last several years representing the interests of fenestration related companies at code hearings, industry forums, and interactions with state and federal government bodies has been on a parallel track with KAW interests. Tom is known by the appropriate parties at the Department of Energy (DOE) and currently serves on numerous committees and task groups within NFRC and ICC. That established presence, as well as Tom having transitioned into KAW activities over the last quarter, has assured a smooth transition as KAW moves forward.

As KAW moves forward into a new phase, we look back gratefully to the efforts put forth by Richard Voreis, Consulting Collaborative, in the role played in those initial years of KAW, while looking ahead to the expansive activities of the coming year.