

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2021

Dominic Sims
Chief Executive Officer
International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Sims:

We write today to express our concern with the proposed changes in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) development process that will curtail the participation of state energy officials, building code officials, and sustainability experts. As members of Congress who have fought for an improved codes development process, we are concerned that the actions taken by the International Code Council (ICC) violate the consensus-based approach that has contributed to the broad adoption of the IECC and substantial progress on energy efficiency.

The IECC and other building energy codes are powerful tools for improving efficiency, resiliency, cost-effectiveness and quality in the housing stock. Robust involvement from state and local officials ensures the code development process more fully reflects the public interest and energy policy goals.

The recently announced plan to change the IECC development process threatens to move critical decisions into the shadows. As the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) wrote in its December 21, 2020 letter, the ICC's proposed approach "gives every appearance of appeasing one industry segment, while squelching the full range of state government views."¹ The National League of Cities and The U.S. Conference of Mayors have also expressed concern over the motion to eliminate the International Energy Conservation Code from the governmental consensus process and wrote that doing so would "undermine the integrity of the process."² The code writing process should be transparent, democratic, and inclusive, allowing for stakeholders and experts to participate. We ask that the ICC carefully review their proposed code development process to ensure that any changes do not further restrict the ability for energy efficiency and resiliency standards to be fully and fairly considered.

¹ Letter from the National Association of State Energy Officials. December 21, 2020.

² Joint Letter from the National League of Cities and The U.S. Conference of Mayors. December 22, 2020.

The IECC codes process has resulted in substantial energy savings over time, and the changes being proposed will likely derail and slow this progress. We are deeply concerned by the steps being taken at the ICC and hope you will reconsider these changes. Therefore, we respectfully request information as to why these changes are being considered now, whether the ICC consulted with state and local officials when developing these changes, and how the ICC plans to ensure their codes development process remains transparent, consensus-based and democratic.

We thank you in advance for your urgent attention to these issues and your response.

Sincerely,



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Congressman

Cc: International Code Council Board of Directors