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International Code Council
Board of Directors
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear ICC Board Members:

I'd like to express my concerns about the changes that the International Code Council (ICC) Board is considering for the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) development process. Changing the IECC from a code to a standard and eliminating the ability for state and local governments to vote and participate in the code development process will disenfranchise a large constituency of stakeholders who make the ultimate decision to adopt and enforce building codes, while empowering building industry stakeholders. By removing the state and local government voice, the public interest purpose of the code development process will be substantially weakened.

As a home rule state, Colorado's jurisdictions have significant authority over building codes yet state statute requires local codes to be at least as strong as one of the three most recent versions of the IECC. Enacting the latest model energy codes is a critical policy strategy for communities to not only ensure energy-efficient, healthy and resilient new construction but also to reduce GHG pollution and meet climate goals. Changing the IECC from a code to a standard could lower its standing and result in fewer local governments adopting it. This change could also lead to a confounding patchwork of alternative codes and amendments, potentially increasing the costs to design and build to a wide variety of code requirements.

I urge the ICC Board to drop this attempt to disenfranchise state and local governments in the code development process. At the very least, the ICC Board should detail the technical differences between the standards and codes development process and provide governmental members the opportunity to vote on the change. This is a consequential decision that deserves broad stakeholder input and transparency.

Thank you for your leadership in establishing trusted and safe model building codes. I appreciate your dedication to a fair and open code development process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor