August 11, 2020

2019 Group B Appeals Board
Mr. Greg Wheeler, President
Mr. Dominic Sims, Chief Executive Officer
International Code Council
500 New Jersey Ave., NW, 6th floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Members of the Appeals Board, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Sims:

We are grateful for the opportunity the Online Governmental Consensus Voting (OGCV) process provided to our municipal members. Thank you for creating an effective process that allowed so many local governments to participate in the code development process.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) is a membership-based council of governments that serves 275 municipalities in northeastern Illinois. I serve as Chairman of the Environment Committee and as the Mayor of the City of Geneva, Illinois.

Many of our members are also your members. Working together, we engaged government officials in guiding the development of new energy conservation codes that will meet the needs of our communities into the future. I had the rare pleasure of attending ICC hearings in Las Vegas in person to speak on behalf of proposals that would improve efficiency, to the extent technologically possible. I attended the hearings on behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and other mayors like me who strongly favor energy efficiency codes that address our goals for sustainability and align with our perpetual pursuit of safety, cost-savings, and quality of life for our residents.

Regarding the Appeal: Scope and Intent (RE147 and CE217-Parts I & II)

Within our own membership, 127 municipalities and 4 counties have formally endorsed the goals of our Greenest Region Compact to “Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently” and “Enact policies that support clean energy.” These are among the goals of the Greenest Region Compact (GRC) that are embraced by GRC Communities that are home to more than 6 million people.

We firmly believe the IECC proposals supported by our members to add electrical outlets near gas-fired appliances, and the provision that supports future electrification by requiring EV charging outlets will help us achieve these goals. This is consistent with our Greenest Region Compact and our efforts to prepare our members for expanded use of electric vehicles.

I am writing to assert that our views were expressed in the Online Governmental Consensus Voting process and that we wish to see the results stand.
Regarding the Appeal: Impact of Online Voting (CP28), Cost impact, Voting guides
First, considering municipalities nationwide, know that my actions, and the actions of MMC members represent the interests of local government leaders broadly. We took our cue from the US Conference of Mayors, who helped us understand that modern IECC codes are among the most effective steps for helping local governments achieve targeted, long-term, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. They encouraged mayors to participate in the IECC code development process, and helped us understand how to do that. Through OGCV voting, according to a list of Government Member Voting Representatives (GMVR) challenged by the National Association of Home Builders, 17 of our member communities were able to participate in the process remotely.

Again, I am writing to assert that our views were expressed in the Online Governmental Consensus Voting process and that we wish to see the results stand.

Regarding the Appeal: Voter eligibility, Validation process
Regarding the challenge brought forth that disputes the eligibility of governmental voters as not meeting ICC Bylaws, this challenge is counter-productive to our local governmental agendas to address energy waste and climate emissions caused by energy use in buildings. ICC Bylaws state we are eligible to participate as “employees or public officials actively engaged either full or part time, in the administration, formulation, implementation or enforcement of laws, ordinances, rules or regulations relating the public health, safety and welfare.” As government representatives with critical and timely goals related to energy use in buildings, we need the IECC code to lead; we appreciate the ability to support its direction by participating in the process. We cannot achieve our goals without addressing building energy use.

Because municipal goals align so well at the national and regional levels, we choose to encourage our members to engage throughout the ICC process. Beginning in March 2019, we held a meeting of our Environment Committee to educate our members about the role of building energy codes in meeting GRC goals, and about the ICC process. We sent information out to our members reminding them to maintain their ICC membership, register their governmental voting representatives, and evaluate the proposals, all in preparation for the December IECC vote. Finally, we encouraged all our members to participate in the OGCV process through many of our digital communications outlets, including our website. I was fortunate enough to be able to be in Las Vegas in person to express support.

Governmental representatives tasked with health, safety and welfare goals related to reducing climate emissions and improving home and business affordability should continue to be permitted to participate in voting on energy code stringency to ensure the IECC aligns with our governmental goals.

Again, thank you for supporting ICC/MMC members in the Online Governmental Consensus Voting process. We appreciate your professionalism and fairness.

Sincerely,

Kevin Burns
Mayor, City of Geneva, Illinois
Chairman, Environment Committee, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

C: Mr. Mike Pfeiffer, Sr. Vice President of Technical Services, ICC
Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives