

City of Ann Arbor
301 E Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

August 31, 2020

Michael J. Pfeiffer
SVP, Technical Services
International Code Council
Central Regional Office
4051 Flossmoor Road
Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer,

The voting officials of Ann Arbor, MI are proud to have participated in the ICC's online voting process that resulted in the passage of a model energy code. The 2021 IECC addendum is important to our city's policies. In recognizing the importance of acting quickly and boldly on climate change, the City of Ann Arbor recently set a goal of community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030 and this code will play a crucial role in helping not only our community realize this vision but will also bring a much needed energy code standard to the rest of the State of Michigan. This code will affect the affordability, resilience, sustainability, and safety of our buildings, the stability of our power grid, and the challenges of foreclosures and financial support that many families and small businesses face.

Our staff are highly immersed in the design and construction communities and see the impacts of the energy codes daily. ICC's online voting process allows us to participate more fully in I-Codes and allows all our voices to be heard and votes to be counted in a manner that does not take our very busy staff away from our daily responsibilities. Sending our representatives to vote in person requires resources that the City of Ann Arbor may not always be able to expend, but that inability does not negate our desire to participate, nor does it decrease our understanding of the impact and importance of I-Codes. We are deeply concerned over the continued and repeated charges of inadequate staff vetting of ICC Governmental Members and of flaws in the ICC code development process. Furthermore, the current situation with the pandemic has challenged everyone's normal operating procedures and online voting is and will continue to be a must for any effective organization.

We believe the charges are both wrong and potentially damaging to the reputation of - and confidence in - the International Code Council. We also feel strongly that ICC's Online Voting process not only allows ICC's Governmental Members to participate more fully in the I-Code Development Process, but that broader voting participation by officials who don't have a vested financial interest in the outcome enhances the legitimacy of the final I-Codes. We believe the code is stronger because of the breadth of participants in the process and we look forward to continuing to take part.

Sincerely,

The City of Ann Arbor Building Department:

Lisha Turner-Tolbert
Building & Rental Unit Manager
lturner-tolbert@a2gov.org

Marc Howell
Deputy Building Official
mhowell@a2gov.org

Chris MacFarland
Code Official
cmacfarland@a2gov.org

Zach Waas Smith
Office of Sustainability & Innovations
zwaassmith@a2gov.org

