



Hood River County Community Development

Planning, Building Codes, Code Compliance, Economic Development & GIS

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To: 2019 Group B Appeals Board, c/o Mike Pfeiffer, Senior Vice President of Technical Services at mpfeiffer@iccsafe.org
Greg Wheeler, CBO President, International Code Council at gwheeler@iccsafe.org
Dominic Sims, CEO International Code Council at Dsims@iccsafe.org

From: Eric Walker, County Community Development Director 

RE: **Finalizing the 2021 IECC**

Hood River County had the opportunity to participate in the 2021 IECC voting process for the first time this year. We were relieved to read in April that the challenges to the voting process were not upheld by the Validation Committee and review of the ICC Board of Directors. We recently learned these same challenges have been resurfaced as appeals. Hood River County is writing today to encourage you to uphold the outcomes of this voting process.

Hood River County would like to address the following areas of the appeals:

1. **The attempt to overturn the online vote:** Our voting representatives followed the rules laid out by the ICC in the voting process, and in doing so, it seems did overturn some proposals that were disapproved at the committee level and at the hearings in Las Vegas. The online votes vastly outweighed the number of votes on the committee or in the room at the public comment hearings. Our votes were among those moving the IECC forward to meet the needs of our community. We took into consideration the opinion of the committee, the written proposals and public comments, and the video testimony, and believed that for our jurisdiction, the proposal met our needs. Our needs may be different than those represented by the committee or the members in Las Vegas, but that does not make our needs less valid.
2. **The attempts to remove electrification measures from the code:** We heard at various points in the hearings testimony that the IECC may not be the right place for these measures, but following the rules that were put before us we chose, as many did, to disagree. We know that to meet the needs of our county, electrification is a critical piece of energy planning and conservation to meet our climate goals. Our actions were informed and deliberate – to help us move our energy codes forward, measures that help us plan for electrification must be included.
3. **The attacks on our credentials to be voters:** Our county staff put significant effort into following the ICC guidelines to become members, register governmental voting representatives, engage in understanding the proposals, and vote using the cdp Access tool. Given limited budgets for travel to participate in multiple iterations of the code development process, the open voting period was an excellent opportunity for our staff to be engaged in this process. We believe it is of great benefit to have a larger percentage of eligible voting members participate in the code development process. We believe we followed the rules to become members, and that our voters are informed and knowledgeable on the issues put in front of them and the needs of our county. The attack on our understanding of what we voted on without knowing our voters is unfounded.

Thanks to you and your staff for maintaining the integrity of this system. I encourage you, again, to uphold these voting results. Thank you for your consideration.