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August 9, 2020

VIA Email

2019 ICC Group B Appeals Board
c/o Mike Pfeiffer, Senior Vice President of Technical Services
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20001

RE: Letter in Support of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code

Dear ICC Appeals Board:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Highland Park (“City”) to express the City’s strong support for original 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and the successful completion of the code adoption process. Three appeals to the IECC update were filed with the International Code Council regarding the validation of voting members, the validity of votes cast online, and an objection to the intent and scope of the IECC relating to the electrification of buildings. The City considers these appeals invalid and insufficient to change the 2021 IECC language that has already been voted upon.

The City’s objections to each of the submitted appeals are as follows:

1. Local government officials, including the City of Highland Park, followed all appropriate ICC guidelines and bylaws in order to vote, and were deemed eligible by ICC officials. Any objection to these voter’s participation in the 2021 IECC voting process is a bad-faith attempt to change the results of a valid voting process.
2. The ICC Validation Committee Report on the Code Development Process 2019 Group B Cycle already determined that votes cast online by the Governmental Member Voting Representatives are as valid as those cast in person, a ruling which the City supports.
3. The intent of a triennial update process is to ensure that the IECC keeps pace with modern technology. Requirements in the 2021 IECC for electrical outlets near gas-fired appliances and space for electric vehicle charging near new commercial and residential buildings is fully within the IECC’s scope to “regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use and conservation of energy over the useful life of each building” in addition to providing “flexibility to permit the use of innovative approaches and techniques to achieve this objective.”

The City of Highland Park requests that the appeals to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code be dismissed. These three appeals undermine the will of public employees from across the country, including officials from the City of Highland Park, who made clear with their votes that they view the code as a key tool to help cities and states achieve climate action goals, strengthen the financial health of homeowners and businesses via reduced energy bills, and advance building practices. The City strongly supports the original IECC code and the successful process of the development cycle.

Sincerely,



Ghida S. Neukirch
City Manager

