



## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION



January 11, 2021

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

Dear ICC Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed elimination of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and its replacement with a standard. I write to register California's strong opposition to the elimination of voting rights for public officials to make changes to the IECC. Participation by public officials is key to ensuring codes both support state energy and climate goals and provide lasting benefits to owners and residents of new buildings.

Buildings are responsible for one quarter of California's greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonizing them is essential to meeting our state's climate change mitigation goals. In this, California is not alone; we partner with and learn from other states across the nation to identify and deploy emissions reductions strategies in both new and existing buildings. IECC should provide a solid platform for practical discussion in harmony with the goals and needs of the states that adopt, adapt and enforce it.

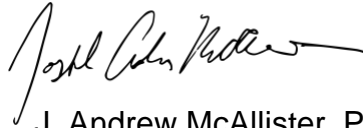
California does not utilize the IECC – rather preferring the state's own Title 24, Part 6 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (BEES) – but we coordinate and collaborate with many states that do, and thus California has a vested interest in continuous improvement of the IECC as a tool for ensuring uniformly high energy performance of new buildings. California benefits from and shares in those states' successes in expanding markets for and lowering costs of efficient and low-carbon building technologies and practices.

CEC updates the BEES every three years through a highly transparent and open public process. The building energy code is thus crafted to be robust, effective and responsive to a very broad array of stakeholders including equipment manufacturers, design professionals, local government officials, environmental groups, and builders among many others. Our state is better served as a result of this meaningful, properly contextualized dialogue and the accountability it engenders. The IECC action you are considering would plainly move in the opposite direction, towards opacity and lack of accountability to the very states that, presumably, would adopt and enforce it. Such a rushed decision by ICC,

unsanctioned by the impacted states, would be out of step with modern, widely accepted norms of good governance. Indeed, in light of the recent repeals of member-approved elements of the 2021 IECC, there appears to be a pattern of actions by ICC to progressively eliminate states' influence on IECC matters. Such actions cast doubt on the future viability of the IECC - whether code or standard.

The 2021 IECC vote was completed using a transparent and well-managed process, completely consistent with ICC requirements. California members participated in significant numbers, reflecting their strong interest in robust and modern efficiency approaches that align well with California's state and local climate and energy goals. Alongside rejection of the proposed changes to the IECC, I strongly encourage the ICC Board to respect the outcome of that vote, now and into the future, by committing publicly not to allow rollbacks from the 2021 IECC baseline. Such a commitment would provide some reassurance to ICC members who harbor reservations about the future utility of the IECC.

Attentively,



J. Andrew McAllister, Ph.D.  
Commissioner