



NORTH CAROLINA  
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER  
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
Secretary

SUSHMA MASEMORE  
Director

August 25, 2020

Mike Pfeiffer, P.E.,  
Code Council Senior Vice President of Technical Services

Mr. Pfeiffer,

I'm writing to ask the International Code Council (ICC) to uphold the vote on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). North Carolina State Energy Office believes that the online vote levels the playing field and allows equal access to governmental staff across the country that may not have the time or resources to attend the week-long in-person hearings. Any move to leave out governmental officials that are engaged with the codes or in the code development process should not be allowed.

Through the work of the State Energy Office and the Department of Insurance, North Carolina has worked for many years on improving the building codes and the training of Code Enforcement Officers. In 2007, North Carolina through legislation established increased building standards for all state governmental buildings. This legislation directed the development and creation of the 2012 North Carolina Energy Conservation Code (NCECC), which at that time of adoption, was 30% better than the old state code and standards. It should be noted that in many cases the 2012 NCECC was better than the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code.

North Carolina has taken bold action to address the impacts of climate change. Governor Cooper's Executive Order 80, released in October of 2018, mandates that state owned buildings achieve a 40% reduction in BTUs/sqft by 2025 from a 2002-03 baseline and requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from a 2005 baseline. Through the creation of the Clean Energy Plan, North Carolina acknowledges the needs to accelerate clean energy innovation, development, and deployment to create economic opportunities for both rural and urban areas of the state. Building codes are an essential part of this plan.

During this time of COVID with reduced budgets and revenues, it is imperative that North Carolina and other governmental employees are able to participate in an open online voting format. It is essential to the State Energy Office, that we help to provide the expertise needed to ensure that the buildings used by residents and businesses in North Carolina have access to safe, healthy and energy efficient buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sushma S. Masemore".

Sushma S. Masemore, P.E.

