



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR WILLIAM PEDUTO

August 12, 2020

International Code Council
2019 Group B Appeals Board
C/O Mr. Mike Pfeiffer
500 New Jersey Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20001

Members of the 2019 Group B Appeals Board,

Staff from the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) voting process for the first time this year. In Pittsburgh, we were heartened by the remarkable outcomes created during the IECC development process, which were estimated to increase the efficiency of the model codes by at least 10% for residential and commercial buildings that follow the IECC. This progress represented the second biggest efficiency gain in the last decade for the IECC.

While our team was relieved to learn that the Validation Committee and the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors did not uphold challenges to this remarkable progress in the fight against climate change, we recently learned that the same challenges have resurfaced as appeals. As the Mayor of Pittsburgh, I am writing today to encourage you to uphold the outcomes of this voting process.

In particular, there are two main areas of the appeals that the City of Pittsburgh would like to address:

1. The attacks on our credentials to be voters: A lot of effort was made by our City staff to adhere to the ICC guidelines to become members. 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. By adding the Department of City Planning's perspective to the Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspections' position, we bring diversity to the discussion and challenge ourselves to create better solutions with better outcomes for our residents.

Climate change is a complex challenge that needs collaboration among diverse skillsets and backgrounds to be solved and this version of the IECC is a step towards the right solution.

2. The attempts to remove electrification measures from the code: When the City of Pittsburgh adopted our Climate Action Plan 3.0, buildings codes were identified as an essential tool to improve building performance for commercial and residential buildings and reduce energy use citywide. To help us move our energy codes forward, measures that help us plan for electrification must be included in the International Energy Conservation Code.

Thank you to you and your staff for maintaining the integrity of this system. I encourage you, again, to uphold these voting results. I am appreciative of your consideration of this important tool to combat climate change.

Sincerely,

William Peduto
Mayor of Pittsburgh

CC: Mr. Greg Wheeler, CBO President
Mr. Dominic Sims, Chief Executive Officer