



August 26, 2020

Michael J. Pfeiffer
SVP, Technical Services
International Code Council
Central Regional Office
4051 Flossmoor Road
Country Club Hills, IL 60478
mpfeiffer@iccsafe.org

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer,

The City of Ann Arbor, Michigan is proud to have participated with more than 1,000 government representatives across the U.S. in voting to improve the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) by 10%. The IECC serves as the basis for Michigan's building energy code as it does for nearly every state and because buildings account for nearly 40% of U.S. energy consumption and climate emissions, this vote was extremely important to us. In our A²ZZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan, which was unanimously passed by City Council in June of this year, we committed to achieving a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030.

The approved 2021 improvements have the opportunity to reduce millions of metric tons of carbon while reducing energy bills for tenants, homeowners, local governments and business owners. The City of Ann Arbor is especially interested in the first-ever, ready-made optional appendices that can be adopted by state or local jurisdictions that want to achieve zero energy buildings sooner.

One of our key action steps to achieve our desired outcomes was to fully participate in the IECC voting process. As Mayor, I personally voted, and our Office of Sustainability and Innovations coordinated very closely with our Building Department to ensure all eligible voting members were fully informed on the voting process and issues. The Office of Sustainability and Innovations evaluated all of the proposed energy efficiency and renewable energy revisions and provided a full overview report of their recommendations to all of our IECC voting members.

The International Code Council (ICC) should not reject thousands of online votes cast for the proposals that improve efficiency by interested parties such as the City of Ann Arbor. The Validation Committee Report already determined the votes should count. The ICC also should not dismiss votes made by IECC eligible voting members that do not directly enforce codes. Mayors, other city elected officials, Office of Sustainability personnel and other municipal staff are



very engaged in carbon and energy reduction policies and procedures. It is due to the fact that buildings account for nearly 40% of carbon emissions that a variety of municipal stakeholders intentionally engaged in the IECC voting. All of these staff meet the existing definition of a “voter.” Finally, the ICC should uphold the voter approved proposals requiring additional electrical outlets near gas-fired appliances to afford homeowners the ability to switch to electric and requiring new commercial and residential buildings to provide space for electric vehicle charging.

The IECC is important to our City’s policies, impacting the affordability, resilience, sustainability, and safety of our buildings. We see and are working to address the impacts of the energy codes daily. ICC’s online voting process allows us to participate more fully in I-Codes and have all of our voices and votes counted in a manner that does not take away from our daily responsibilities. The City does not have the resources or time to send our representatives to vote in person, but that inability does not take away our desire to participate, nor does it decrease our understanding of the impact and importance of I-Codes.

We feel strongly that ICC’s Online Voting process not only allows ICC’s Governmental Members to participate more fully in the I-Code Development Process, but that broader voting participation by officials who don’t have a vested financial interest in the outcome enhances the legitimacy of the final I-Codes. We believe the code is stronger because of the breadth of participants in the process and we look forward to continuing to take part.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Taylor".

Christopher Taylor
Mayor
City of Ann Arbor, Michigan

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Missy Stults".

Missy Stults, PhD.
Sustainability and Innovations Manager
City of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Cc: Greg Wheeler, CBO President, ICC (gwheeler@iccsafe.org)
Dominic Sims, CEO, ICC (Dsmis@iccsafe.org)
Glen Dempsey, Building Official (gdempsey@a2gov.org)