

**From:** Aaron Vander Meulen <[aaron@vandermeulenbuilders.com](mailto:aaron@vandermeulenbuilders.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 12:44 PM

**To:** Member Input <[memberinput@iccsafe.org](mailto:memberinput@iccsafe.org)>

**Subject:** Proposed Change to IECC ANSCI Standard

Members of the ICC,

I am writing you today to voice my support of the proposed change to an ANSCI standard. I am 4<sup>th</sup> generation builder in Michigan, a member of the NAHB, and chairperson of the MAHB building code committee. I had the opportunity to attend the public comment hearings in Las Vegas for the first time this development cycle, and it was an eye-opening experience. I thought the hearing had good a lively debate, and when voting was completed, while I did not necessarily agree with all of the committee decisions, it was clear that they were well reasoned, and made by a balanced committee. Unfortunately, as we all know, that was not the way the final propositions ended. It was extremely discouraging to see that so few people could impact so many, and that those voting could be so completely unqualified to be voting. But, I also understand that what is done is done, and cannot be undone. Instead, we must find a better way forward.

Being a 4<sup>th</sup> generation builder doesn't happen by accident. Throughout our history as a company, we have always strove to give our clients a high quality, durable home. Part of that has always included being energy efficient. We care deeply about it, and incorporate many above code features, simply because its both the right thing to do, and because we believe it gives our customers a better product. However, there has to be limits on this as we hit the point of diminishing returns. Many of the proposals that were debated are beyond the point where there is value added. I was happy to see that the committee and voting during the public comments realized this, and voted not to include them. Unfortunately those looking at it from their myopic points of view, and quite frankly from a point where their wealth disconnects them from reality, pushed them through. Transitioning the energy code to an ANSCI standard would prevent any group (including the NAHB) for pushing their singular agenda through, and return the process to a balanced committee. This in turn will ensure that the best decisions are being made, balancing the interests of industry, builders, our customers, code officials, manufacturers, government officials, and energy efficiency advocates. These vested partners would then be able to vet proposals for their compliance with federal standards, their cost effectiveness, and whether or not they should even be part of the energy code or would be better placed in a different section.

I'm on the front lines of the building industry, working with customers every day. It's an unfortunate reality that many, many people cannot afford to build. While energy efficiency is not the sole cause of this, and in fact is an important part of affordability to live in the house, it is a mistake to add more unneeded costs that do not have a tangible benefit. Switching to an ANSCI developed standard is the best way to ensure that the needs of all parties, including our customers, are getting the best quality product, that will be energy efficient, durable, and last generations. Again, I strong urge your support in this important change.

Thank you

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