

Urge Adoption of the 2021 IECC Without Weakening Amendments

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Mr. Christian Mitchell
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Dear Deputy Governor Mitchell,

Thank you for your leadership in helping to advance policies that create new jobs while addressing the threat of climate change. The Capital Development Board (CDB) will soon begin its review of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which provides an additional opportunity for achieving greater energy efficiency in the building sector in alignment with Governor Pritzker's Eight Principles for a Clean and Renewable Illinois Economy. Importantly, this is a significant opportunity that can be acted on without additional legislation.

In adopting the 2018 version of the IECC several years ago, CDB accepted amendments that weakened the stringency of the State's building energy code resulting in greater energy waste for both commercial and residential buildings. As an example, according to information from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on the relative stringency of state building energy codes, the Illinois building energy code for residential buildings is currently 5.6% weaker than the 2018 IECC model code.¹ By comparison, several states, including California, Washington and Vermont, are demonstrating that realizing energy savings well beyond the base code is achievable and cost-effective.

The weakening amendments previously adopted by the State result in greater energy waste and pollution for Illinois and are in direct conflict with the letter and intent of the Illinois Energy Efficient Building Act, which requires adoption of the latest IECC as the minimum code (i.e., without weakening amendments). With the recent publication of the 2021 IECC, the CDB and the Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council are required to start their review of this version of the model energy code soon. We urge your office to support eliminating the previously adopted weakening amendments and to restore the Illinois building energy code to a level of stringency equal to or better than the 2021 IECC.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
EPS Industry Alliance
Elevate
Insulation Contractors Association of America
National Insulation Association

North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance
Structural Insulated Panel Association

¹ See DOE's State Code Adoption Tracking Analysis (<https://www.energycodes.gov/adoption/state-code-adoption-tracking-analysis>).