

From: [Zachary Doll](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Public Comment Oppose Ord. 240434: Vote No to Stop on Better Buildings
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 5:12:33 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing as a resident of Kansas City, MO who is concerned about making KC homes healthier, more affordable, and energy efficient. For the reasons that follow, I ask you to please vote “no” on ordinance 240434 and the small, loud minority of developer lobbyists interested in building properties cheaply to maximize their short term profits.

I care deeply about the future of my community and need our local leaders to do everything possible to address the climate crisis and the needs of our community. To further equitable climate action, public health, and affordable housing, KC must maintain strong building energy codes in order to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings while making sure they are built to lower utility bills and keep residents healthy.

Kansas City took a major step forward in 2022 by adopting one of the best building energy codes in the country. The code went into effect in 2023, furthering KC's climate action goals. This policy saves people and businesses money, reduce indoor air pollution, AND drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in the short term and especially the long term. The savings come from lowered energy bills; reduced health costs by improving indoor air quality and reducing illness requiring treatment; and a strengthened building economy that takes advantage of training opportunities and millions of dollars in incentives from the federal and state government. Protecting this policy also helps ensure that our children and future generations can thrive in a community that has clean air and healthy homes. **KC has led the way in adopting this code, and jurisdictions throughout the metro area are working right now to match it. This proposed ordinance will ruin this progress.**

The reasoning behind this ordinance attacking KC's building code are unfounded and would undo thousands of hours of work by the city and stakeholders across the KC metropolitan area. Opponents to KC's energy code cite many reasons for higher construction costs, including inflation, a backlog of permits predating the new energy code, and market forces, but they put all the blame on a single, forward-looking policy because they believe eliminating it will enable them to make more money by building cheaply. This will NOT benefit customers because buildings will still be sold for maximum price. Future generations will also be harmed by being forced to live in a built environment not suited for the challenges KC will face due to lower quality buildings and a worsening climate crisis. This is Kansas City's moment to lead once again in responding to community needs and centering human health and well-being over the short-term wealth building of a few companies and their lobbyists. The community is behind you and will work across the city and metropolitan region to ensure the code is implemented and that we continue to build a healthier, more resilient, and thriving Kansas City. **Please vote “no” on Ordinance 240434 and preserve KC's better building code in line with our city's goals.**

Thank you,

Zachary Doll