To Whom It May Concern,

As Kansas City, Missouri (KCMO) navigates compliance with the 2021 IECC code, I am aware of the resistance it has encountered, particularly regarding the new HVAC requirements. With over 40 years of experience as an HVAC contractor in the new construction sector, I have some observations to share. I understand the desire of the Home Builders Association (HBA) to streamline the building process and expedite permit approvals. However, it appears that some of the proposed changes from the HBA fall short of the enforcement standards set by the previous code.

As a company committed to installing HVAC systems that not only meet but exceed code requirements, I believe that any recommendations should strive to enhance, rather than compromise, the prior standards. Under the new 2021 IECC codes, our HVAC costs include $2450 for an Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) and an additional $300 for duct sealing to meet leakage tests. In my view, the inclusion of ERVs should have been mandated earlier, considering the necessity for maintaining healthy indoor air quality in tightly sealed homes, especially given the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from various building materials.

From a business standpoint, we have invested $70,000 in new machinery to ensure compliance with and surpassing the new codes. We have already completed one new home construction project in KCMO under the new code, raising concerns about fairness to builders who have invested resources to meet these standards, only to face potential changes.

I believe there exists a middle ground that can benefit all stakeholders in the KCMO area. Perhaps KCMO could have adopted a phased approach, gradually implementing different aspects of the code over time to facilitate a smoother transition. These thoughts stem from my perspective as a small company with 30 employees, engaged in the construction of 300-400 new homes annually in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Local HVAC contractor