

Comment Re: Ordinance #240434
Vote No – Protect KC’s Better Building Code

Chair Bough, Vice Chair Lucas, and Members of the Finance Committee:


I am writing to express my **strong opposition to Ordinance 240434**. I am a resident of the Fourth District, an architect, sustainability leader and care deeply about this city, its citizens and climate justice. Adopting strong energy codes is one way to take climate action and this ordinance reverses the progress the city is making. It also goes against your climate commitments adopted in the Climate Protection and Resilience Plan.

The reasoning behind the ordinance appears to come from frustration with obtaining building permits and having to change. Regardless of what energy code was adopted, there is always a learning curve for staff and processes that must be updated. My firm has been through the new permit process at least three times now with the city and haven’t had any issues. We met with staff in advance and worked with them to provide the information they are requesting. One of the projects was for single family homes. It is interesting that only the Home Builders are complaining about the process. You don’t see the architectural community complaining and we go through much lengthier permitting processes than home builders. The difference though, is that an architect has a professional, ethical responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. Contractors do not. The authors of this ordinance are concerned with their bottom line, not the future of the community. This ordinance is short sighted and focused on profits over people.

Like my neighbors, I care deeply about the future of my community and understand the need for our local leaders to do everything possible to address the climate crisis and the needs of our residents. To further equitable climate action, public health, and affordable housing, cities must adopt 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.

For Kansas City to meet its climate commitments, it is imperative to maintain as adopted the 2021 IECC with its strengthening amendments, which provides language for our city to be **ready and resilient**. I urge the committee to **please vote “no” on Ordinance 240434 and preserve KC’s better building code** in line with our city’s goals.

Thank you for your consideration,



Joyce Raybuck, AIA LEED AP