

**From:** [Anthony Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [cc 1; Public Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Oppose Ord. 240434: Vote No to Stop Attack on Better Buildings  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2024 4:46:59 PM

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Hello,

I am a 4th-district Kansas City, MO resident who is very concerned about the effort to erase years of work and progress by KC to help make our building stock healthier, more affordable, and energy efficient. **I ask you to please vote “no” on ordinance 240434 and reject the sudden, unwarranted attack on KC’s energy code for the sole purpose of benefiting a small, loud minority of developer lobbyists interested in building properties cheaply to maximize their short term profits.**

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, keep residents healthy, and keep them in their homes or businesses for the long-term.

**Kansas City took a major step forward in this in 2022 by adopting one of the best building energy codes in the country.** The code went into effect in 2023. This policy, furthering KC’s climate action goals, will save residents and businesses money, both in the short and long-term, reduce indoor air pollution, and drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The short-term savings come from significantly lowered energy bills from making homes more efficient; reduced health costs by improving indoor air quality and reducing respiratory illnesses requiring treatment (which is particularly prevalent in historically redlined communities due to the ravage of "Urban Renewal", and the many lane-miles of freeways and other polluting car-centered infrastructure); a strengthened building economy that takes advantage of training opportunities and millions of dollars in incentives from the federal and state government in the coming years; and a more resilient building stock that will allow families to stay in their homes and pass them down to their children without considerable maintenance expenses that our buildings under older standards have been built to. Protecting this policy will help ensure that our children and future generations can thrive in a community that has clean air and resilient 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, requiring more frequent maintenance or building replacement altogether. This will harm our families, schools, or small businesses

because buildings will still be sold and leased based on the market. 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.**

Regards,

Anthony Cunningham  
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