

Chair Parks-Shaw and members of the Neighborhood, Planning, and Development Committee:

Hello, my name is Bryton Stoll. I am a residential energy rater, and owner of Endeavor Home Performance LLC. We provide energy modeling as well as field inspections and testing for residential energy code compliance for builders in the KC Metro area. I am here today to ask City Council members to reject proposed Ordinance 240434 as the addition of the “KCMO Compliance Path” as written will move Kansas City’s energy code from the most effective in the Metro area, to one of the least, while potentially not solving the permitting problem that our builders are facing.

The energy rating compliance option of the code as written requires all homes to be inspected, tested, and modeled by an energy rater. The home must receive a good enough energy rating AND meet the additional mandatory requirements such as installing insulation in ALL the walls and sealing air leaks. The “KCMO Compliance Path” not only makes the energy rating target less stringent, it also eliminates these important mandatory requirements. This means that homes with a good enough overall energy rating can pass the code even with severe localized issues, like missing insulation or air leaks. In addition, the “KCMO Compliance Path” completely eliminates the requirement for inspections and testing on Master Plans after the first home. Inspections and testing in all homes are crucial to providing accurate energy ratings and preventing major issues like previously mentioned.

I’d also like to bring up the overall issue that I think we would all like to solve, which is the lack of permits in Kansas City. I attended one of Councilmember Patterson Hazley’s listening sessions with builders a few weeks ago, and as an energy rater I was encouraged by what I heard. Repeatedly, builders said that the energy code was not the problem, it was the lack of communication and long lead times in the overall permitting process. This goes along with my personal experience as well.

I fear that the proposed ordinance will damage the energy code and allow efficiency, comfort, durability, and health problems for homeowners, without solving the overall permitting problem for builders.

Thank you,

Bryton Stoll
Endeavor Home Performance
bryton@endeavorhp.com
785-713-2716 (Personal)
913-303-9282 (Work)