



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF ASHRAE

**PROVIDED TO THE KENTUCKY HOUSING, BUILDINGS, AND CONSTRUCTION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**101 SEA HERO ROAD, SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY**

AUGUST 22, 2017 10:00 A.M.

My name is Christian Taber and I am here today on behalf of ASHRAE to register our opposition to attempts to roll back Kentucky's commercial energy code to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code or IECC from the current 2012 version.

The platform on which IECC is built is ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1, first published in 1975. This is the basis for the energy standard for most US commercial buildings. For over 40 years, this Standard has served as the leading resource for state and local jurisdictions that wish to promote energy efficiency, engaging interests across the building and construction sector, and yielding increased levels of efficiency in a balanced manner with input from all affected parties. This and all ASHRAE Standards are developed and sustained through the private-sector, continuously maintained (and improved), American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) consensus-driven process.

US federal law mandates the most recent version of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 as the basis for State commercial building energy codes. The Energy Conservation and Production Act mandates that all states comply with this Act. Each time the Standard is updated, which is every three years, the Act requires the Secretary of Energy to make a determination with respect to whether the revised standard would improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings. When the U.S. Department of Energy issues an affirmative determination on Standard 90.1, states are statutorily required to certify within two years that they have reviewed and updated the commercial provisions of their building energy code, with respect to energy efficiency, to meet or exceed the revised standard.

Additionally, the Coalition for Current Safety Codes¹ (of which ASHRAE is a participant) states that maintaining the current three-year cycle for updating codes is important because:



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- Consistent codes across all jurisdictions provide the common language businesses, hospitals, and others need to efficiently build in our communities and create local jobs.
- From advanced materials to “smart home” technology, new products are appearing all the time. The three-year model code cycle supports this innovation. Without up-to-date building codes, many new products cannot be used.
- With American buildings accounting for 70 percent of electricity use and nearly 40 percent of total energy use, updated energy codes present the quickest, cheapest and cleanest way to lower energy use.

Kentucky remains a leader in the application of strong building codes and standards to protect families, businesses and visitors and ASHRAE considers energy codes to be part of that strong package of codes. Kentucky must remain vigilant to ensure our communities are safe and resilient. Simply put, we cannot go backwards. I would urge you to defeat this attempt to turn back the clock in Kentucky.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 56,000 members worldwide focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today. More information can be found at www.ashrae.org.

¹ Coalition for Current Safety Codes, Flyer 15-11394: Washington, DC, 2015.