



May 1, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: FY2026 Appropriations Request; Department of Energy; Office of Energy
Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Building Energy Codes Program**

Dear Chairs Fleischmann and Kennedy, and Ranking Members Kaptur and Murray:

As you work to craft the appropriation measure for energy and water development and related agencies for fiscal year 2026, we ask for your support of funding that will reduce energy waste in our nations' buildings and strengthen America's economic competitiveness and community resilience. Specifically, we ask for \$15 million to enable continued technical support from the U.S. Department of Energy's Building Energy Codes Program to support the continued advancement of cost-effective model energy codes and standards that provide energy savings, reduce stress on the energy grid, and save home- and business-owners money on utility bills.

Adopting and implementing modern model building codes and standards, like the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE Standard 90.1, protects homes and families from extreme weather and other hazards and reduces the cost of living by curbing utility bills, all without impacting housing affordability. These standards are developed through a consensus-based process, facilitated by the International Code Council (ICC) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), that brings together expertise from across the public and private sector.

The IECC and ASHRAE Standard 90.1 development processes benefit from the input of the Department of Energy's Building Energy Codes Program (BCEP) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) which help ensure these models remain focused on practical solutions that promote housing affordability, reduce operating costs of commercial buildings, and support grid reliability. Through BCEP and PNNL participation, the 2024 IECC was able to achieve more energy savings and lower building costs according to a recent analysis by Home Innovation Research Labs at the behest of the National Association of Home Builders. Similarly, a PNNL analysis of the 2022 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1 showed that annual energy costs for Standard 90.1-2022 are lower than energy costs associated with the 2019 version. Further, a PNNL analysis concludes that the national simple payback, weighted across climate zones and building types, is immediate for ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2022. Having this analysis from BCEP and PNNL is critical to ensuring that buildings can be operated cost-effectively.

Model building energy codes provide state and local leaders with actionable policy tools that are adaptable to the unique needs of individual jurisdictions. The technical analysis performed by DOE and PNNL are critical to ensuring that these model building codes will provide cost-effective solutions for states and other authorities having jurisdiction. The funding is also critical to ensuring that DOE can meet its statutory obligations with respect to evaluating the effectiveness of model energy building codes required by the Energy Conservation and Production Act. Finally, the funding can be used by DOE to provide unbiased technical assistance to states and local jurisdictions that have the authority to adopt and enforce building energy codes, so that they can adopt codes that are appropriate for the unique needs of individual jurisdictions.

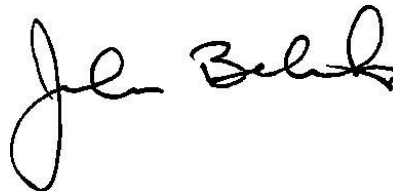
We respectfully request that **\$15,000,000 be provided for FY2026 to the Building Energy Codes Program**, which is administered by DOE's Building Technologies Office. This funding request is consistent with historical levels that have received bipartisan support in Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us at GovAffairs@ashrae.org or gmaser@iccsafe.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



M. Dennis Knight
President
ASHRAE



John Belcik
Chief Executive Officer
International Code Council