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Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Urban Affairs Committee
Nebraska Legislature
1445 K St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: LB 1134, "Change and provide limitations on updates to state and local building codes"

Dear Chair McKinney, Vice Chair Clouse and Members of the Urban Affairs Committee:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 54,000 members, including over 400 in Nebraska, that focuses on the engineering of building systems, indoor air quality, and resiliency. Through research, standards development, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today.

I would like to express ASHRAE's opposition to LB 1134. This bill would significantly weaken energy codes in local jurisdictions that have adopted a more current version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Specifically, it would prohibit any Nebraska community from enacting an energy code at or beyond the 2009 IECC. These restrictions take away a community's local control and would put energy codes nearly two decades out of date.

By imposing blanket restrictions and rollbacks, this bill would create regulatory uncertainty, forcing communities that have invested in energy-efficient building practices to either abandon their progress or face compliance conflicts. A statewide limitation would undermine local decision-making, increase long-term energy costs for homeowners, and disrupt local economies that have adapted to modern building practices.

Ultimately, Nebraska citizens face the biggest burden when outdated codes are used, creating inefficient buildings that cost far more to make them comfortable, even with added heating and air conditioning. A U.S. Department of Energy analysis shows that the cost of constructing a home in Nebraska to the 2021 IECC would provide total energy savings of 7.9%, and the

average new homeowner in Nebraska with a home built to the latest version of the code would see an average reduction of \$159 annually on their utility bills.¹

In summary, ASHRAE respectfully opposes this legislation and requests the committee vote against advancing this bill to the floor.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHRAE's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being the most prominent part.

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, "State Energy Codes: Nebraska," July 2021,
https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/NebraskaResidentialCostEffectiveness_2021_0.pdf