

June 17, 2022

The Honorable Gary Peters, Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
SH-442 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
SR-448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: HR 5673, the STORM Act Technical Corrections Bill

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

We write in opposition to provisions regarding building codes in the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Technical Corrections Act, HR 5673, as it passed the House of Representatives. We believe this bill, far from technical corrections, would weaken important language on building codes in the STORM Act.

Building codes have proven effective at limiting damage from natural disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) found in a recent study that post-2000 buildings built to hazard-resistant codes are saving \$1.6 billion a year in avoided damage, and codes could be expected to save \$132 billion in buildings through 2040. Up-to-date energy codes would achieve billions of dollars of additional savings in energy bills. Thus, there has been bipartisan recognition of the importance of codes for resilience.

The STORM Act correctly recognized that setting and implementing up-to-date building codes and standards is a critical element of hazard mitigation. The language proposed in HR 5673 would weaken the provision on using the latest published editions, which have stronger hazard mitigation provisions as well as greater energy savings and associated resilience under extreme heat and cold. Equally important, the bill could be taken to prevent support for adoption of effective codes, potentially blocking support for jurisdictions that currently have weak codes and thus have the greatest need for assistance.

We urge you to limit the bill to actual technical corrections that improve access to the funds and to maintain strong support for hazard-mitigating building codes for their ability to protect American homeowners and American taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

ASHRAE

Building Performance Association

Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association

E4TheFuture

Institute for Market Transformation

Insulation Contractors Association of America

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

National Association of Energy Service Companies

National Association of State Energy Officials

National Insulation Association

North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

NRDC

Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

RMI

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance

Structural Insulated Panel Association

U.S. Green Building Council