



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

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Chair Jason Schultz
Committee on State Government
Iowa Senate
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Sent via email to: jason.schultz@legis.iowa.gov

Re: S.F. 479, "An Act Repealing Energy Conservation Requirements for New Construction"

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Senate Committee on State Government:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE regarding proposed bill SF 479, "An Act Repealing Energy Conservation Requirements for New Construction." ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a technical and professional society of more than 53,000 members, including over 400 members in Iowa, that 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. ASHRAE has a direct interest in and concern with building energy codes and energy conservation in current and future buildings.

ASHRAE opposes the removal of energy conservation requirements from the state energy code through SF 479. ASHRAE's Position Document on Energy Efficiency in Buildings states that "building-related standards are effective tools for improving energy use efficiency. Energy codes, standards, benchmarks [and] ratings... provide significant value to building owners and managers."¹ The current codes provide a net benefit to the people of Iowa, including a healthier and more sustainable built environment. Buildings built in accordance with modern building standards are not only more efficient, but provide a healthier, more comfortable, and more resilient space for building occupants. SF 479 would remove the ability of the Building Commissioner to inspect an existing building that is undergoing renovation or remodeling to enforce the energy conservation requirements. It would also remove the requirement for new construction to be in accordance with all applicable energy conservation requirements.

¹ ASHRAE Position Document on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, January 2020:
https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd_energyefficiencyinbuildings_2020.pdf

Building energy codes are a dependable and readily available solution for states and local governments to incorporate into their resilience planning, reducing total energy demand and associated greenhouse gas emissions, and providing constituents with everyday benefits in the form of buildings that are more comfortable, more resilient, and cost less to own and operate.² Adoption and enforcement of the most up-to-date building codes and standards creates a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment for all. However, this legislation would make Iowa's buildings less healthy and less efficient over time.

Again, we appreciate your consideration of our comments regarding these proposed changes to the building code. ASHRAE would be happy to address any questions you might have. Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,



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² Iowa State Analysis, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Energy Codes Program, July 2021:
https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/Cost-effectiveness_of_ASHRAE_Standard_90-1-2019-Iowa.pdf