



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

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The Honorable Senator James Buck
Chairman
Senate Committee on Local Government
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Sent via email to: senator.buck@iga.in.gov

Dear Chairman Buck:

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), founded in 1894, is a global society that exists to serve humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, and their allied fields. Our more than 53,000 members, including over 500 in Indiana, 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.

Some of our highest policy priorities at ASHRAE are supporting the adoption of the latest edition of ASHRAE's energy efficiency standard, promoting healthy buildings, supporting sustainable building practices, and advancing the design and construction of resilient communities. In pursuit of these priorities, we urge that House Bill 1575 be amended to address the following issues:

- Allowing only two codes to be updated and amended per year will create a permanent backlog of needlessly outdated codes, thereby denying Hoosiers of the safety, health, and energy efficiency benefits of up-to-date codes and standards. There are currently seven building codes adopted in Indiana, making it impossible for all the codes to be up to date at any point in time. This bill tacitly accepts a less safe, healthy, and efficient built environment as a result.
- The membership of the proposed commission, as stipulated in this bill, would not include sufficient engineering and design expertise to be able to address issues regarding conflict or overlap with the commercial code. The composition would not allow for the unbiased oversight that is crucial to a successful code adoption process. If this bill becomes law, it

will create confusion for builders and safety officials because the bill does not make clear how mixed-use development where apartments sit on top of parking garages or businesses would be regulated; there would be separate codes that govern the residential parts versus the commercial parts when there used to be a single, cohesive set of codes. There is no explanation of how such conflicts would be resolved.

- The legislation would result in weaker codes and standards for buildings that only marginally lower the up-front cost of construction, while also resulting in buildings that have significantly worse full lifecycle value.¹ This will be due to buildings' inefficient energy use causing high utility bills, high maintenance costs due to lax building code regulations, and ultimately a shorter building lifespan that robs the owners of the full value of their home.²³

We strongly believe that adoption and enforcement of the most up-to-date building codes and standards creates a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment for all. This legislation would unfortunately result in dated building codes that do not reflect the latest technology, which would make Indiana's buildings less healthy and less efficient over time.

Sincerely,



Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

¹ https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/IndianaResidentialCostEffectiveness_2021.pdf

² <https://www.fema.gov/blog/5-reasons-building-codes-should-matter-you>

³ https://www.isomitigation.com/siteassets/downloads/iso-bcegs-state-report_web.pdf