National Association of State Energy Officials Board of Directors

Resolution Supporting Energy Efficient Codes

September 2019

WHEREAS, State and Territory Energy Offices have long recognized the importance of energy efficiency in the development of a successful national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, homes and commercial buildings are America's largest energy-consuming sector – together using over 40 percent of the nation's energy, 70 percent of our electricity consumption, one-eighth of our water use, and 36 percent of our carbon dioxide emissions[1]; and

WHEREAS, reducing building energy consumption is an important objective for our country; and

WHEREAS, studies show that these energy efficiency improvements enhance the affordability, security, comfort, and health and safety of home ownership by generating net positive cash flow for homeowners; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes help safeguard commercial owners and tenants from long-term financial burdens and protect them from energy price volatility; and

WHEREAS, energy-efficient buildings provide economic and environmental benefits lasting decades which supports our nation's economic vitality and a sustainable environmental future; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes set minimum requirements for energy-efficient design and construction of new and renovated buildings that impact energy use and emissions over the decades-long lifetimes of the buildings; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes make our daily lives better by improving indoor air quality and public health, and providing a more comfortable and productive work environment; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes help drive the development, deployment, and innovation of new building technologies and design strategies; and

[1] United States Environmental Protection Agency. Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2017. April 11, 2019. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-04/documents/us-ghg-inventory-2019-main-text.pdf.

WHEREAS, building energy codes should consider emerging Grid Interactive Efficient Buildings role in cost-effectively optimizing both the electric system building performance and the connection to the electricity system; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes decrease the impact and the electric peak load of buildings, helping to lessen the stress on the electricity grid, which increases grid reliability and decreases costs; and

WHEREAS, building energy codes improve the resilience of communities to natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, State and Territory Energy Offices inform and participate in the building energy code development process in order to implement policy and programs goals of their states; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency buildings play an important role in helping States and Territories achieve their energy, economic, and environmental goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Energy Officials encourages the International Code Council's Committees for the Residential and Commercial International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) ensure that the IECC serve the needs of the states by 1) disapproving code change provisions that would result in roll backs of cost-effective efficiency levels approved in previous code development cycles; 2) prioritizing energy efficiency code provisions that are durable and unlikely to degrade once installed in residential and commercial structures; 3) advancing energy code provisions that prepare new commercial and residential buildings for technology advances, such as electric vehicles and grid integration to better meet the needs of owners and occupants for decades to come; and 4) considering the resilience contributions of energy efficiency to building owner's safety, health, and economic vitality.