From:	Ashley Sadowski
To:	Public Testimony; Bough, Andrea; Lucas, Quinton; Curls, Darrell; Rea, Crispin; Rogers, Wes
Cc:	nathan.willet@kcmo.org; ONeill, Kevin; French, Lindsay; Robinson, Melissa; Melissa Patterson Hazley; Bunch, Eric; Parks-Shaw, Ryana; Duncan, Johnathan; Platt, Brian; Williams, Jeffrey; Lee, Jeff
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Chair Bough, Vice Chair Lucas, and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Kansas City, MO who is very concerned about the effort to weaken the City's recent adoption of the 2021 IECC. For the reasons that follow, I ask you to please vote "no" on ordinance 240434.

As a real estate professional focusing on decarbonizing our regional building sector, strong energy codes set the floor for new development and ensure that we are building structures that can help residents withstand the increasing temperature swings and severe weather. Housing being built today will be with us for the next several generations affecting resident's monthly income long after move-in. Kansas City has one of the worst energy burdens in the country with many residents paying significantly higher utility bills than the national average. To avoid spikes in monthly expenses, vulnerable residents will often limit their energy use to dangerous levels resulting in pulmonary, respiratory, and cardiovascular diseases; injuries; mental health issues; and death.

Managing our natural resources is one of the most challenging tasks in modern history and requires every individual to bring their time, talents, and grit to create progress. Every step is hard and requires adaptability among the industries affected.

But the stakes could not be higher. As the window closes for us to turn the tide on climate change, it could be argued that today's city leaders have an unprecedented level of influence on the future vitality of our city. The opportunity for our children to grow up in a neighborhood with clean air, water, access to food, and reliable energy depends on our collective success. Our city is extremely fortunate that it has a roadmap with the Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan. Each section of the plan outlines the role that each community member, civic leader, and business owner can play including bettering the performance of our homes and buildings.

While working as an architect, I designed several single and multi-family homes, and I can say that the residential construction industry is operating on practices that haven't dramatically improved in the last 100 years. Upon closer inspection of our historic buildings and homes, it could be argued that the quality of construction has actually decreased over time. Unlike industries like healthcare or the tech industry, residential construction has remained stagnant. It needs policy drivers to push it towards a more modern, durable, and efficient mode of design. And it must be noted that Kansas City is not operating alone in this effort. Cities and jurisdictions across the country are adopting better building codes and performance standards which are having massive effects on growing local workforce

and improving the marketability of regional building stock.

I am passionate about inclusive and expansive economic growth for our city. Understanding current real estate investment patterns is important to understanding the need for strong energy codes. Global and national investors are increasingly looking to grow their portfolios with higher-performance buildings. Many cities are fostering investment through regulatory and incentive drivers that elevate the conditions of their buildings. Those cities that lag in adopting these drivers will see poorer market performance resulting in "brown discounts" applied to their residential and commercial structures.

Thank you for your service to our City and consideration of my perspective on this issue. I respectfully ask you to **vote "no" on Ordinance 240434 and preserve KC's better building code** in line with our city's goals.

Warmly,

Ashley Sadowski
7104 Washington Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64114
(6th district)