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Metropolitan Energy Center
Kansas City, Missouri
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MetroEnergy.org

February 4, 2026

RE: Public Comment Oppose Ord. 260144: Vote No to Stop Attack on Better Buildings

To: Mayor Lucas, Mayor Pro Tem Parks-Shaw, and Members of the Kansas City Council:

Metropolitan Energy Center is writing on behalf of the many thousands of Kansas City, MO residents who would be impacted by the effort to erase years of work and progress by KC to help make homes healthier, more affordable, and energy efficient. For the reasons that follow, we ask you to please vote “no” on ordinance 260144, which appears to solely benefit a small, loud minority of developer lobbyists interested in building properties cheaply to maximize their short-term profits.

Our organization was born out of the need for better housing in Kansas City neighborhoods, and our values are based in community benefit. As such, we care deeply about the future of our community and understand the need for our local leaders to do everything possible to address the needs of our residents. To further public health, affordable housing and equitable climate action, cities must adopt strong building energy codes, which reduce the carbon footprint of buildings while ensuring they are built to lower utility bills and keep residents healthy.

Kansas City took a major step forward in 2022 by adopting one of the best building energy codes in the country, backed by many different stakeholder groups, and tested through public dialog, committee work, and repeated challenges in City Council. The code went into effect in 2023. This policy, furthering KC’s climate action goals, will save people and businesses money through lower energy consumption, reduce indoor air pollution, and drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, especially the long term.

These savings come from lowered energy bills because homes are more efficient; reduced health costs from improved indoor air quality and less illness requiring treatment; and a strengthened building economy that takes advantage of training opportunities and helps replace the aging construction workforce. Protecting this policy will help ensure that our children and future generations can thrive in a community that has clean air and healthy homes. KC has led the way in adopting this code, and jurisdictions throughout the metro area are working right now to match it. This proposed ordinance will harm this progress.

The reasoning behind this proposed ordinance is founded on misleading statements. Opponents to KC’s energy code cite many reasons for higher construction costs, including inflation, a backlog of permits predating the new energy code, and market forces, but they put all the blame on a single,

forward-looking policy. The proposed ordinance will not benefit customers; buildings will still be sold for maximum price.

Future generations will also be harmed by being forced to live in a built environment not suited for the challenges KC will face due to a worsening climate crisis. The 2009 residential code that would be put into place with this ordinance does not support a resilient and healthy Kansas City population.

This proposed ordinance would undo thousands of hours of work by the city and many different stakeholder groups across the KC metropolitan area. Kansas City must once again reject the demands of this special-interest group, and respond to community needs, by centering human health and well-being over the short-term wealth-building of a few companies and their lobbyists.

The community is behind you and will work across the city and metropolitan region to ensure the code is implemented and that we continue to build a healthier, more resilient, and thriving Kansas City. **Please vote “no” on Ordinance 260144 and preserve KC’s better building code** in line with our city’s goals.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance.

Sincerely,



Kelly Gilbert
Executive Director