

SUNRISE MOVEMENT

May 14, 2024

Dear Kansas City council,

Sunrise Movement KC opposes Ordinance #240434, wan attack on Kansas City’s historic building energy code. It is disappointing and unconscionable that our Council is entertaining a major step backwards in our fight against the climate crisis, with this particular decision putting thousands of poor and working-class people at risk of rising utility bills and buildings that cannot withstand extreme weather.

Young people want a safe, climate resilient city that can withstand the effects of climate change. Unless the country and world take dramatic steps to reduce carbon emissions, our city will face even worse heat waves and temperature fluctuations that impact our indoor air quality and building safety. We already see hundreds of children in Kansas City missing days of school due to indoor air pollution and asthma.¹ A strong building and energy efficiency code keeps our spaces safe, now and for generations to come.

Young people championed an aggressive Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan—passing this ordinance would undo KC’s legacy as a leader on climate protection. The CP&RP names that our city must do everything in its power to take climate action in ways that promote justice and equity for frontline communities. By undoing this building code, we are putting our city down a path to where climate resilient buildings will only be accessible to a wealthy few rather than standard for every new home, apartment building, and building whether it is affordably priced or not.

Housing prices are unaffordable because out-of-state investors are buying homes in cash and raising prices, NOT because Council has made our buildings safe. Please side with the people, not misinformation, and do not pass this Ordinance #240434.

Sincerely,
Sunrise Movement KC

[Sunrise Movement KC](#) is multi-racial, cross-class, anti-racist movement of young people organizing to stop the climate crisis and win a Green New Deal. We will force the government to end the reign of fossil fuel elites, invest in Black, brown and working class communities, and create millions of good union jobs. We’re on a mission to put everyday people back in charge and build a world that works for all of us, now and for generations to come.

¹ <https://metroenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Health-Impacts-of-EWKC-Program-Activities.pdf>