Chairwoman Bough, Mayor Lucas, and Members of the Finance, Governance, and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Beth Pauley, a former member of the Climate Protection Steering Committee. I am writing in opposition to the affordable housing changes included in Ordinance 260286.

Housing justice is climate justice.

A little over a month ago, this governing body weakened energy codes citing "affordable housing." That "Let Builders Build" (Or as I prefer to call it, Build Baby Build)[1] ordinance was carried by the "lone" and proud conservative councilmember Willett and lauded by Senator Eric Schmitt in August 2024. Even more disgracefully, the democratic process was circumvented and just like that, the labor of hundreds of community members who worked to pass this once "landmark" policy was undermined.

Reversing energy codes wasn't about affordable housing, despite the distortion and cooption of affordable housing rhetoric[2].

Ordinance 260286 isn't about building more affordable housing, either. Doubling down on developer sponsored policies, undermining the efforts of organizers, residents, and subject matter experts is insulting. We see through the disingenuous, warped rhetoric to justify these policy decisions[3], especially when they are recycled repeatedly.

We deserve local elected officials to be honest and transparent. I know your job is not easy. Your residents who are barely getting by have difficult jobs, too. Your residents who volunteer on committees have difficult jobs, too. Your residents who do not know how they are going to pay their utility bills, rent, groceries, have difficult jobs, too.

Who do you serve? What will be your legacy? How many "landmark" policies are going to be reversed?

Please uphold the current affordable housing requirements and vote no on ordinance 260286.

Respectfully,
Beth Pauley
6th District

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[1] This is a throwback reference to Sarah Palin's "Drill Baby Drill" in 2008.

[2] I'll withhold the photos of the "affordable housing" most of these home builders build in cities like Olathe, who have discriminatory laws requiring houses to be a certain size.

[3] Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò's distills this tactic in *Elite Capture*: radical concepts can be stripped of its political substance and liberatory potential by becoming the victim of elite capture—deployed by political, social, and economic elites in the service of their own interests.