

Sent via Electronic Mail

April 5, 2019

Vice Chairman James Cappleman
Chicago City Council
Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 200
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Ward46@cityofchicago.org

**Re: Amendments to the Chicago Construction and Building Codes
Adoption of the International Building Code
Proposed Ordinance O2019-1452**

Dear Alderman Cappleman:

The undersigned organizations represent manufacturers of energy-efficient building products. We write to express our support for the City's efforts to update the Chicago Building Code to better align with the International Code Council's model codes. Proposed Ordinance O2019-1452 represents a step toward this objective by adopting the key provisions of the International Building Code (IBC). We encourage the Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards to support the proposal.

The IBC is a consensus-based code that undergoes an extensive review and update process every three years. This process allows all stakeholders to propose improvements to the code and convenes the expertise from public officials, academia, and industry. Importantly, all modifications to the IBC are voted on by the ICC governmental voting membership. This group is comprised of state and local government representatives, including building departments and fire marshals. The result are modern building codes that ensure building fire safety, maintain cost-effective requirements, and promote innovations in construction practices.

The proposed ordinance adopts the IBC without significant amendments. This is important because the IBC's prescriptive and performance-based requirements appropriately allow for flexibility of both design and material selection. These provisions provide code officials with clear guidance and building owners and designers with options, which makes enforcement easier and compliance cost-effective. Additionally, the I-Codes are intended to work as a family of codes. Adopting the IBC as published will allow for a more seamless process as the City considers additional model codes.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support regarding the proposed ordinance. And we look forward to supporting the City's efforts to adopt additional I-Codes, including the International Energy Conservation Code. Please contact the individuals listed below should additional information be helpful to the Committee.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council

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