Dear Honorable Chair Murphy and Honorable Ranking Member Bangert:

The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (“PIMA”) appreciates the opportunity to provide opposition testimony to House Bill 580 – Construction Standards (“HB 580”). PIMA is the trade association for the North American polyisocyanurate (polyiso) insulation industry. Polyiso insulation is the leading product used in commercial low-slope roofing projects and a popular choice for insulating exterior walls on buildings of all types, including residential homes. Missouri is home to polyiso manufacturers and raw material suppliers, including the construction of a new polyiso insulation manufacturing plant operated by Carlisle Construction Materials opening in Sikeston this year.

We write in opposition to HB 580, which seeks to limit the authority of local jurisdictions to adopt modern building energy codes that help reduce energy waste in residential buildings. The model codes currently adopted by local jurisdictions in Missouri are developed through an open and transparent process that brings together experts from the home building, manufacturing, code enforcement, and other critical industry sectors. This expertise is used to review and update model codes on a three-year cycle. The adoption and enforcement of modern building energy codes is important for several reasons, including to:

- Reduce energy cost burdens on homeowners and tenants;
- Improve comfort and indoor air quality for occupants;
- Increase durability and resiliency in weather extremes; and
- Protect consumers as most homeowners and tenants do not have the ability to choose how their homes are insulated at time of construction.

HB 580 represents a significant change in Missouri policy as well. Currently, local jurisdictions are permitted to adopt and modify building codes to meet their specific situations. HB 580 would usurp local control over the adoption of energy codes and would restrict the ability of local jurisdictions to make informed decisions about their community needs. In doing so, HB 580
would also set Missouri jurisdictions back by more than a decade. The limits on insulation and other requirements included in HB 580 represent a return to standards that were first developed and adopted back in the 2000’s. A return to the inefficient building practices of yesterday would ignore the steady progress that the homebuilding industry has made to introduce more efficient building techniques and products.

Finally, modern building energy codes are good for the Missouri economy. Smaller monthly utility bills mean more money in homeowners’ pockets. The products used to make homes more energy efficient are manufactured domestically with numerous manufacturing operations in Missouri. Lastly, the energy-efficient products are installed with local labor resulting in even more economic activity in Missouri communities.

We encourage the Committee to oppose HB 580 in order to retain Missouri’s long-standing policy of allowing local jurisdictions to make independent decisions on building energy codes. Please contact me (jkoscher@pima.org; (703) 224-2289) should additional information be helpful to the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Justin Koscher
President