



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

Mr. Curt Rich, President and CEO
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
11 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Rich:

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary Marcia Fudge on behalf of the climate and energy efficiency stakeholders that you represent. I am responding in light of my office's broad role in supporting environmental compliance and energy efficiency initiatives across the Department. In your letter, you ask the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to take a leadership role in meeting President Biden's ambitious climate goals and addressing climate-related financial risk. To achieve this, you have asked HUD to improve energy code standards and require that new homes secured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and new homes under other HUD programs comply with the current 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) or ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019 for multifamily units.

The Department deeply appreciates your advocacy and concern for our country's climate goals and the health and safety of citizens being served by HUD. The Department shares your concern and is committed to addressing the climate crisis in response to Presidential Executive Order 14008 ("Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad") while creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

As such, we want to assure you that this is a priority for the Department as we move to improve the efficiency and resilience of HUD's portfolio of public and assisted housing as well as of FHA-insured single family and multifamily housing. In fact, HUD has already prioritized a timely update to the Department's energy codes pursuant to the requirements of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. These codes have not been updated since 2015 when HUD and USDA jointly adopted the 2009 IECC for single family housing, and the 2007 edition of ASHRAE 90.1 for multifamily buildings.

Although no action was taken during the previous Administration to update these codes, the Department is now committed to moving forward on consideration of the latest editions of the codes as required by the statute: the 2021 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2019.

As you know, the adoption of the latest IECC and ASHRAE standards is contingent on a joint determination by HUD and USDA that the new codes will not "negatively impact the affordability and availability" of covered housing. The Department began this process in January

and is currently drafting a Proposed Determination of Affordability and Availability, pursuant to Section 109 of the Cranston Gonzalez Affordable Housing Act (41 USC 12709). HUD expects to publish a Preliminary Determination for public comment as required by the statute later this year.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing and responding to the concerns of your stakeholders. We value your input and hope that you will continue to stay engaged in our shared goal of fostering sustainable, inclusive communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Bush
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs
Office of Community Planning and Development

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