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Representative Erica Layon
Chair, Executive Departments and Administration Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
GP Room 231
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Support for HB 1180 “Updating the Definition of the State Building Code to Include the International Energy Conservation Code 2024”

Dear Chair Layon and Colleagues,

I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) regarding our support of HB 1159, “Updating the Definition of the State Building Code to Include the International Energy Conservation Code 2024.” adopting the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). NEMA strongly supports adoption of the latest national model building codes and urges the committee to support this legislation to protect New Hampshire residents and help mitigate runaway energy bills.

NEMA is the leading trade organization representing America’s electroindustry. Our more than 300 manufacturing companies include producers of reliable, connected, and secure products which are used throughout critical infrastructure sectors and other key markets, such as building infrastructure; building systems; lighting systems; industrial products and systems; utility products and systems; and transportation systems. NEMA members manufacture many of the products necessary to provide electricity to New Hampshire consumers and businesses, equipment that powers electric vehicles, and products that make buildings and homes more energy efficient¹. In New Hampshire, the electroindustry supports more than 20,900 jobs and creates more than \$3.2 billion in GDP contributions².

Importance of Timely Adoption of Model Codes

NEMA strongly supports consistent adoption of safety and energy codes. National model building codes provide the blueprint for constructing the places we live and work. They guide the minimum safety and performance standards which allow occupants to live and operate in a safe and optimally-performing environment. Model building codes also allow for the latest advancements in safety, efficiency, and resiliency in building. The codes are developed through an open stakeholder process regularly to reflect subject matter expert perspectives and incorporate advances in safety and technology in homes and buildings.

They also drive innovation and improve quality of life. The national model building codes, produced through an open and transparent stakeholder process and led by the International Code Council (ICC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), are revised every three years to account for advances in technological innovations, building practices, and best practices in fire & life safety. Therefore, timely adoption in accordance with the national model revision schedule is vitally important.

Energy Efficiency Reduces Costs, Increases Energy Security

Energy efficiency reduces New Hampshire energy bills. Modern energy codes include flexibility for builders and many paths for compliance, reducing the cost of utility bills and maintenance. The difference in costs of energy efficient construction are quickly outweighed by the reduced costs to homeowners.

Modern energy codes also provide benefits beyond energy savings. Homes built to updated codes also improve passive survivability. Passive survivability allows homeowners to stay safely and comfortably in their homes during prolonged power outages. Adopting updated energy codes could help residents during power outages from an extreme weather event.

Energy demand in the United States will significantly increase over the coming years. Energy efficiency is the lowest cost option for meeting this rising demand and ensuring energy security for the country, a top priority for the United States. New Hampshire can help to achieve energy security by investing in long-term energy stability through promoting energy efficiency.

Improving energy efficiency for New Hampshire homeowners greatly improves affordability, reduces their utility bills, and provides grid flexibility allowing the state to compete in critical areas such as data centers.

Conclusion

NEMA supports safe, efficient, and affordable homeownership. We strongly support this legislation because it will significantly improve homeowner safety while also reducing operational costs. Additionally, this bill supports New Hampshire manufacturers and employees and helps low-income households with energy costs.

We thank you and your colleagues for your consideration of our concerns and request that you vote to support this important legislation.

We are happy to speak further with the committee regarding any questions, concerns, or comments. We look forward to working with the legislature further on building code issues.

Best regards,

Christopher Bresee
Director, State Government Affairs
National Electrical Manufacturers Association

¹ Additional information about NEMA may be found at <https://www.nema.org/>.

² [New Hampshire Electroindustry Economic Report](#)