

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

City of Columbia & County of Boone
City Hall, Conference Room 1A

February 23, 2016

Mayor McDavid and Council Members,

The Environment and Energy Commission (EEC) has reviewed the changes the Building Construction Codes Commission wants to make to the 2015 International Building Codes (IBC) before adoption. The EEC's concerns are with changes that have the effect of reducing the energy efficiency of buildings – thus increasing residents' energy costs. It's well known that climate change requires that we make changes to the way we build that conserve energy and help utilize different sources of energy. The 2015 IBC codes contain some changes that acknowledge the need for conservation and alternative energy sources.

The following points are addressed in detail in the attached report:

1. Require foundation insulation*;
2. Require air tightness testing*;
3. Require all residential buildings – even those classified as commercial (e.g. townhouses and apartment buildings) - to meet the residential energy efficiency requirements;
4. Require solar-ready construction.

The City of Columbia has made multiple commitments to sustainability (e.g. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, City of Columbia Strategic Plan, et. al.) and reducing energy efficiency is counter-productive to these commitments. We have much farther to go to address the issues that are predicated by climate change. The time to start is now. By adopting the 2015 IBC we save energy in Columbia.

Respectfully Yours,



Jan Dye

Chair

Environment and Energy Commission

* = requirements under the 2012 City of Columbia-adopted International Building Codes that are weakened in the BCCC 2015 IBC proposal.

Attachments:

"EEC response to BCCC"

"IRC 2015 Ordinance + EEC comments"

"IBC 2015 Ordinance + EEC comments"