



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street
State House, Boston 02113 - 1054

LINDSAY N. SABADOSA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1ST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114
August 12, 2022

Dear Commissioner Woodcock, Secretary Card, and Secretary Kennealy,

I'm writing today in support of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network in their call for more ambitious climate standards in the opt-in stretch code that will be offered to municipalities by December of next year. Cities and towns in all parts of the Commonwealth want to play a role in fighting the climate crisis, and building codes are one of the best methods available to them. MCAN has put together a great list of recommendations, and the Department may find their insights valuable as it works to develop a final draft of the new code.

MCAN argues that towns should be able to implement requirements to the aggressive extent needed to meet the drastic demands that climate change will impose. For example, the stretch code should allow towns to require that *all* building types be constructed or renovated entirely without the use of fossil fuels; this would, after all, eliminate the need to retrofit buildings later to meet emissions goals. They also argue that DOER should take the lead in tracking embodied carbon by requiring all buildings to meet prescriptive specifications for low-carbon construction materials, and for new large buildings, to undergo a Whole Building Life Cycle Analysis.

In addition, MCAN recommends allowing municipalities to adopt the code by a vote that takes place any time before the January 1st or July 1st effective dates, dropping the six-month minimum lead time. Requiring on-site solar panels in proportion to the extent of available solar access is also an option to consider. Finally, DOER could do a lot of good in helping the public grapple with the scale of the efforts needed to address the climate crisis if the agency collaborated with the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to publicly demonstrate how 2030 building sector emissions limits can be met.

I have no doubts that forward-thinking design and ambitious standards can together ensure affordable, comfortable housing for all and set an example for architecture in the time of climate resilience. I look forward to seeing the Department's draft language develop, and will be ready to assist in any way if needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lindsay N. Sabadosa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lindsay" being more prominent and the last name "Sabadosa" following in a similar style.

Lindsay N. Sabadosa
State Representative, 1st Hampshire