



Date: June 8, 2021

To: Members of the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee

From: Hallie Fox, Legislative Aide | Nick Occhipinti, Government Affairs Director

Re: Oppose HB 4648, Adding Construction Code Councils

Chairman Hauck and Members of the Committee on Regulatory Reform:

Thank you for the opportunity for Michigan LCV to share our opposition to HB 4648, which before promulgation of a new edition of the State building code would require the director to appoint advisory committees in advance of promulgation of new code editions. Michiganders rely on our state's construction codes for health and safety improvements in their homes, as well as for driving down the cost of ownership and occupancy through energy efficiency and conservation. We must ensure that any updates to that process streamline and improve the process, not unnecessarily hinder or delay the adoption of the most modern, energy efficient building design standards.

Energy Efficient Buildings Lower Costs for Homeowners, Improve Indoor Home Health and Safety, and Mitigate Air Pollution

Buildings account for a large portion of Michigan's energy needs and approximately 20% percent of our state's direct carbon dioxide emissions. Michigan's construction codes are a primary tool for increasing energy efficiency standards in homes and businesses; which correspondingly reduces energy demand, saves Michiganders money on their monthly energy bills, and reduces air pollution. Updating Michigan's construction codes in a timely manner is critical for meeting our state's clean air and climate goals, and for increasing affordability for Michigan homeowners and tenants.

HB 4648 Adds Layers of Government Process, May Delay Adoption of the 2021 IECC

Michigan's construction code review process currently allows for the adoption of modern building codes while incorporating feedback from relevant stakeholders and the public. Reworking the construction code review process by establishing multiple new advisory councils could add layers of redundancy and cause a delay in the code update process; and correspondingly, the adoption of



healthier, safer, building standards. LARA is poised to begin the 2021 code update, and changing the review process while it is occurring would cause uncertainty for staff and stakeholders.

Michigan LCV Supports Meaningful Public Engagement in the Code Review Process

Advocacy groups and members of the public play a crucial role in providing feedback on Michigan's construction codes, as they help drive the conversation around keeping Michigan homes and businesses safe, healthy, and energy efficient.

Michigan LCV supports efforts to increase stakeholder engagement, improve code update process transparency and accessibility, and streamline code adoption processes to more quickly and efficiently adopt code updates while relieving undue burden on LARA staff. We are happy to work on legislation that will accomplish these goals.

Thank you again for allowing Michigan LCV to voice its opposition for House Bill 4648.

On behalf of our statewide membership and our Board of Directors, Michigan LCV expresses our opposition to House Bill 4648. Michigan LCV reserves the right to score in favor of NO votes on this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact our organization to provide clarification or further detail about our official position.

Respectfully,

Hallie Fox, Legislative Aide
Michigan League of Conservation Voters