

July 18, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Tunney and Members of the Committee on
Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards
c/o Nicole Wellhausen
City Hall
121 North LaSalle Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

To Alderman Tunney and the Committee:

On behalf of AIA Chicago, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects, we respectfully submit the following letter of support for Chicago's 2022 Energy Transformation Code, based on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code with strengthened amendments.

The AIA has long supported advances in building codes, and specifically advances in energy codes, as a mechanism to mitigate climate change and promote market-wide adoption of efficient building design. Not only will the proposed advances in the Chicago energy code save operational utility costs, but it will also contribute to the health, safety, and welfare of our clients and the public at large – a charge that architects are ethically responsible to deliver.

In 2019, AIA ratified a series of [Climate Actions](#) to establish methods to accelerate the design and construction of low emission buildings. AIA is working with building code officials across the country to implement recommendations (and elevate code stringency) from the 2019 report of AIA's Blue-Ribbon Panel on Codes and Standards, [Disruption, Evolution and Change: AIA's vision for the future of design and construction](#). This publication calls for the nimble development, adoption, and enforcement of comprehensive and coordinated building codes that mandate carbon-efficient design and construction.

AIA is actively advocating for full adoption of zero net carbon energy codes at the International Code Council (ICC), state, and local levels. We are pleased to see the provision for alternate compliance with the 2021 PHIUS standard and the Gold and Emerald certification levels under the 2020 National Green Building Standard (NGBS). We are here to help the City consider this and future steps that will align with the City of Chicago's 2022 Climate Action Plan and pave the way for a zero net carbon energy code.

AIA Chicago looks forward to working with the City on this critical issue as we develop programming to educate architects on the anticipated changes ahead. We can help with ideas and examples of emission-reducing design and construction techniques that save short- and long-term operational costs for all Chicagoans.

Please reach out to us if we can assist you further in the coming months.

Respectfully,



Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA
Executive Director



Drew Deering, AIA
President



Arathi Gowda, AIA, AICP
Vice President – Advocacy