



Date: March 18, 2015

To: Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council

From: Sara Yerkes, International Code Council (ICC)
Steve Baden, Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET)

Re: Support for Retaining of Section R406 of 2015 IECC in Illinois

The ICC and RESNET urge the Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council to retain the Energy Rating Index (ERI) performance path option in its adoption of the 2015 IECC in Illinois.

Having the ERI option being included in the 2015 IECC was a historic event for code development in that it represented the first time that home builders, environmental organizations and energy efficiency advocates all supported a significant energy code proposal.

Home energy ratings are commonly used in the housing market throughout the U.S. In 2014 over a third of all new homes sold in the U.S. were rated and issued an Energy Rating Index. In 2014 over 1,700 homes in Illinois were rated and issued an ERI score. To date over 1.5 million homes in the national have been rated.

Home Energy Ratings have a history of being recognized in energy codes. Over 150 code jurisdictions from Arizona to Vermont have adopted an energy rating index option included in their building energy codes.

RESNET's home energy rating program has a stringent standard for the training and testing of HERS Raters and robust quality assurance oversight.

The Pacific Northwest Labs has researched the ERI option for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). While it found that there are variances between the IECC performance option and the ERI, the ERI score threshold requirements is such that the option meets the energy performance requirements of the 2015 IECC. It was the basis of this analysis that DOE made its determination that all compliance options of the 2015 IECC increased the energy performance of homes over the 2012 version of the IECC.

The ICC and RESNET entered into an historic agreement to support the adoption of R406 of the 2015 IECC. This agreement includes certification of HERS Raters as ICC energy code inspectors and additional code training for the raters. See attached announcement of the partnership.

We urge the Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council to include the Energy Rating Index option in its adoption of the 2015 IECC. To remove this section would represent a major backward step in the adoption of the 2015 IECC.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara C. Yerkes".

Sara C. Yerkes
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Baden".

Steve Baden
Executive Director