

Resolution No. 2

Date: 5/20/2011

City: Washington, DC

NAHB Resolution

Title: Department of Energy (DOE) Participation in National Model  
Energy Codes and Standards Development  
Sponsor: Ohio Home Builders Association  
Submitted by: Randy Strauss

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) has adopted and aggressively pursued a goal of 30 percent energy savings in both residential and commercial buildings for the 2012 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) compared to the 2006 edition and plans to pursue a goal of achieving an increase in savings of 50 percent by 2015 without a legislative mandate to do so;

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy has become an active and vocal advocate in the national model codes and standards development process for increases in energy efficiency for residential and commercial buildings and is no longer serving as an impartial technical advisor and resource for those looking to construct energy efficient buildings;

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy provides federal funding to programs, such as the Building Codes Assistance Program, and for consultants and other energy efficiency advocates to push for state and local adoption of the latest edition of national model energy codes and oppose efforts by local home builders and other stakeholders who seek cost-effective amendments while achieving equivalent energy savings;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has long been an advocate in the model building codes and standards arena for energy efficiency provisions that are cost-effective and affordable for home buyers throughout the nation;

WHEREAS, NAHB has sought unsuccessfully through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to obtain information on the formulas and methodologies used by the Department of Energy to determine the percentage of energy savings resulting from proposed changes to model codes and standards; and

WHEREAS, NAHB is committed to research, development, and the use of cost-effective products and building techniques, as well as financing practices, that promote energy efficiency in new and existing buildings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders urge Congress to amend all relevant federal energy policy to require the Department of Energy to:

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Department of Energy  
(DOE) Participation in  
National Model Energy  
Codes and Standards  
Development  
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1. Determine whether the current and future editions of national model energy conservation codes and standards referenced in federal energy policy are economically justified and technically feasible based on available appliances/equipment, technologies, materials, and construction practices to improve energy efficiency as compared to prior editions;
2. Issue a report to Congress providing a detailed explanation of the results and basis for all such determinations for current and future editions of energy conservation codes and standards;
3. Establish and publish in the Federal Register its criteria and methodology for evaluating the economic justification and technical feasibility of changes to the energy efficiency provisions of national model codes and standards, including the formulas for calculating energy savings and the anticipated payback periods to residential and commercial building owners;
4. Prior to supporting or opposing any proposed change or amendment to a national model energy conservation code or standard, utilize the established criteria and methodology to evaluate the economic impact, technical feasibility, and energy savings that would result;
5. Issue an annual report to Congress describing in detail its activities and use of federal funds to participate in national model energy codes and standards development, to promote the adoption by state and local jurisdictions of national model energy codes and standards – including incentive funding made available to states, and to hire or otherwise fund consultants or other advocates to push for the adoption and enforcement of national model energy codes and standards within the States;
6. Abandon its efforts through the national model code and standards development process to establish national energy efficiency targets for residential and commercial buildings that are not technically feasible and economically justified.

Board of Directors Action:	APPROVED
Executive Board Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes and Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Building Codes & Standard Subcommittee	
of the Construction, Codes & Standard Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Energy Subcommittee	
of the Construction, Codes and Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
National Area Chairs Action:	Recommends Approval