

March 10, 2026

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Committee on Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy  
Capitol 5  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 3545 – Requirement to Adopt a New Residential Energy Code Repealed

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy Minnesota (CEEM), I am writing to respectfully raise concerns about HF 3545, which would repeal Minnesota's statutory requirement to adopt updated residential energy codes.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan nonprofit representing the business voice of energy efficiency and advanced energy in Minnesota. Our more than 70 member companies employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans and are helping build the technologies and infrastructure that support a modern, reliable, and affordable energy system. Today, Minnesota's clean energy economy supports nearly 64,000 jobs statewide, including more than 46,000 in energy efficiency.

Minnesota's statewide energy code helps ensure new homes remain affordable to operate while keeping building standards aligned with advances in construction practices and technology. Current law, passed last biennium, directs the state to adopt updated versions of the International Energy Conservation Code or a comparable or more efficient standard.

Regular code updates are one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce long-term energy costs for homeowners and renters. Efficient homes lower monthly utility bills, improve comfort and resilience, and reduce strain on the electric grid.

Research also shows that modern energy codes do not significantly impact housing construction, and energy savings typically offset modest upfront construction costs within a few years through lower utility bills.<sup>1</sup>

Minnesota has not adopted a new residential energy code in more than a decade. Maintaining the existing statutory framework for periodic updates provides certainty for builders and ensures that new homes deliver lasting affordability for Minnesota households.

Representative Mekeland, we appreciate your leadership on housing and construction issues and welcome the opportunity to work with you and other stakeholders as this discussion continues.

Sincerely



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<sup>1</sup><https://www.aceee.org/blog-post/2025/10/states-strengthened-building-energy-codes-quarter-million-new-homes-rise>