



March 9, 2026

TO: Representative Dave Baker, Co-Chair
Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Opposition to HF3545

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HF3545. As the Decarbonization & Sustainability Lead for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity—and as a member of the Department of Labor & Industry’s Technical Advisory Group on Residential Energy Code—I have seen firsthand how essential it is for Minnesota to adopt the 2024 IECC as directed by Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.106, subdivision 1. A thorough, data-driven review of the costs and benefits has already demonstrated strong support for moving forward.

Minnesota’s residential Energy Code has not been updated since 2015. This delay, driven largely by opposition from Housing First, has resulted in a State building code that allows outdated construction practices to continue—leaving homeowners with higher monthly utility bills and homes that are less comfortable than they should be. Builders benefit from lower upfront costs, but families pay the price for decades.

The 2024 IECC offers simple, cost-effective improvements that dramatically enhance building performance. These changes are neither experimental nor burdensome—they are proven, practical steps that meaningfully improve long-term affordability, comfort, and resilience. At Twin Cities Habitat, we build high-performing homes with the help of unskilled volunteers, demonstrating that these standards are both realistic and achievable. This directly contradicts claims that adopting the 2024 IECC is too complex or costly for the building industry.

Consider this: none of us would buy a “new” car built with technology from 2015, nor would we accept a “new” phone running an obsolete operating system. Yet HF3545 would allow builders to continue constructing homes using outdated standards, even though building science, materials, and construction techniques have advanced significantly in the last decade. Minnesota families deserve homes built for the world we live in now—not the world of ten years ago.

I urge you to reject HF3545 and allow Minnesota to move forward with a modern, data-supported Energy Code that protects consumers, reduces long-term costs, and ensures that every newly built home meets the level of performance and efficiency that Minnesotans deserve.

Thank you for your attention and for your commitment to serving the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mike Robertson
Decarbonization & Sustainability Lead
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Inc.