American Chemistry Council | Plastics Division

March 9, 2026

Re: HF 3545 – oppose

Dear Chairmen Baker and Pinto and Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee:

The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Plastics Division appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 3545. We respectfully oppose HF 3545, which would repeal Minnesota's statutory requirement to adopt updated residential energy codes beginning in 2026 and to continue advancing residential energy performance over time.

ACC members represent the business of chemistry, an industry that employs more than 8,000 direct and jobs in Minnesota and generates an additional 17,244 jobs in plastics and rubber products. The industry pays $784 million in wages, generating $177 million in state and local taxes. As a large stakeholder in the construction sector, ACC supports the ongoing process of improving building codes for residential and commercial buildings. Our members include manufacturers of building materials like foam plastic board insulation; spray foam insulation and air sealants; house and building wraps; liquid applied water resistive barriers; plastic glazing; and roof membranes. These products provide a wide range of benefits including thermal, air, and moisture management.

Minnesota's current statutory framework provides a predictable pathway for adopting modern energy codes. Repealing that framework would remove clear direction for advancing residential efficiency requirements and create uncertainty about whether new homes will continue to reflect current best practices in energy performance.

When a state lags in adopting updated energy codes, new homes are constructed to standards that fall behind current building science or market practice. Because residential structures are long-lived assets, efficiency decisions made at the time of construction are effectively locked in for decades. Delays in updating codes can result in housing stock that consumes more energy over its lifetime than necessary, placing avoidable pressure on both homeowners and the broader energy system.

In addition to improving long-term efficiency, updated residential energy codes play a critical role in strengthening housing resilience. Modern energy codes incorporate advancements in building science that improve overall thermal performance, air barrier continuity, and moisture control. Homes constructed to current energy code standards are better able to maintain stable indoor temperatures during extreme heat and cold events, including during power interruptions. By requiring appropriate insulation levels, air sealing, and thermal control strategies, updated codes slow heat gain in the summer and heat loss in the winter. This reduces peak energy demand during severe weather and enhances occupant safety and comfort when the grid is under stress.

Minnesota has established ambitious statewide energy and emissions goals, and residential buildings are a long-lived asset class that directly influence those outcomes. Maintaining a structured pathway for adopting modern energy codes aligns with protecting consumers, strengthening housing durability, and supporting long-term energy system resilience.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose HF 3545 and preserve Minnesota's existing statutory framework for advancing residential energy performance standards.

Sincerely,

Marcus Branstad

Senior Director, State Affairs