



September 11, 2023

To: Transportation, Technology, and infrastructure (TTI) Committee, Houston City Council
Re: City of Houston Construction Modernization Code Project
From: Todd McAlister, Executive Director, South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource, TMcAlister@eepartnership.org

The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) is the U.S. Department of Energy recognized Regional Energy Efficiency Organization supporting energy and building code education, adoption and compliance throughout Texas and Oklahoma. Through this work, SPEER facilitates educational trainings and acts as a resource for local governments and the state as they seek to adopt new energy and building codes. In this capacity, SPEER supports the efforts of the City of Houston to review and consider adoption of the 2021 Construction Code Updates.

The review, adoption, and enforcement of updated building and energy codes across the state, and more importantly in Houston, will enhance efficiency in new buildings, lower energy costs for homeowners, and increase reliability and resiliency to the region's energy grid. As new technologies flow into the region and the state prepares for a more diverse resource mixture to the wholesale electricity market, it is imperative for cities like Houston to adopt new codes to adequately prepare and receive the added efficiency gains which provide passive survivability and lower bills to the ratepayer. Furthermore, the adoption of increased code standards will immensely help in the resiliency of buildings and homes within the broader Houston metro area, thusly improving these structures ability to withstand the increased weather related disasters. The 2021 IECC adoption would result in 10% more energy efficient buildings and save almost 9% in energy costs to the region. At a time when Houstonians, and Texans broadly, are forced to choose between paying utility bills or buying groceries, decisions like yours to adopt progressive efficiency codes will provide relief through lower energy costs for years to come.

SPEER supports the adoption of the 2021 IECC and Chapter 11 of the 2021 IRC by the City of Houston. We also appreciate the commitment to transparency and the democratic nature of the adoption process. We are optimistic that these new codes will enhance Houston's resilience and generate cost savings for residents through reduced energy consumption.

SPEER appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter of support for adoption and implementation of 2021 Construction Code updates and looks forward to working with the City of Houston for additional amendments and adoption in the future.

Sincerely,

Todd McAlister
Executive Director, SPEER