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Hearing Officer and Construction Industries Commission
PO Box 25101,
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mary.james2@state.nm.us

Regarding: Support of Proposed 2020-5-14 2018 Residential and Commercial International
Energy Conservation Code Adoption

Dear Hearing Examiner and Constructions Industries Commissioners,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my written comments in support of the Construction Industries Commission (Commission) adoption of the proposed 2020-5-14 2018 Residential and Commercial International Energy Conservation Code (2018 Code). Inclusion of the 2018 Code into the New Mexico building codes will protect the health and safety of our community and reduce overall of building utilities cost. Furthermore, the “hard-wired” energy efficiencies will be instrumental in reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions that will result in better health for all New Mexicans and promote preservation of the lands and ecosystems we love and depend upon.

Statewide adoption of the 2018 Code will have practical benefits statewide, because energy efficiency continues to be one of the least cost options for reducing occupant utility bills while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Under the new code, buildings will be 20-30% more energy efficient. The end goal, of course, is not reducing emission targets per se, but rather mitigating the negative impacts that global warming will have on our region and our community, such as poorer air quality, prolonged drought, increased wild fires, less snow pack, reduced stream flows, and increase heat days. Studies show that the most financial vulnerable in our communities are also most susceptible to the impacts of climate change; thus, a policy that reducing greenhouse gas emissions, also address those most in need.

Given what is at stake, **I strongly urge the Commission to adopt the proposed building code changes as presented, without rollbacks or exemptions.** This is a measured and appropriate policy change to address our current situation - a policy that will have far-reaching impacts in addressing equity, prosperity, and climate change for all New Mexicans now and in future generations.

Respectfully,



Claudia Borchert