



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

S. Mehboob & Company Consulting Engs.
Office 201, S.I.T Tower
Dubai Silicon Oasis Dubai
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Phone: 971504236615
Email: farooq.mehboob@smehboob.com

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The Honorable Craig Goldman
Chair
House Energy Resources Committee
Texas House of Representatives
1100 Congress Ave
Austin, TX 78701

Letter sent via email to: craig.goldman@house.texas.gov

Re: TX HB 3061

Dear Chair Goldman,

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, in support of updates to the state's commercial building energy code included in TX HB 3061. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a technical and professional society of more than 53,000 members, including more than 2,600 in Texas. Our members devote their careers to a focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and education, ASHRAE shapes today's and tomorrow's built environment.

ASHRAE supports the provision in HB 3061 that would ensure that the most recent edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1, [Energy Efficiency in Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings](#), is used in Texas. ASHRAE 90.1 is the benchmark and backbone of building energy codes in the United States, such as the International Energy Conservation Code, referenced in this legislation. HB 3061 directs the comptroller and the State Energy Conservation Office to establish programs for the economic implementation of the International Energy Conservation code and its subsequent updates, which in turn will mean that the state uses an up-to-date edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1.

An update to the Texan building energy code will confer substantial benefits. Firstly, the energy savings in newly constructed buildings will directly translate to lower month-to-month costs for building owners, operators, tenants, and landlords. Secondly, buildings constructed in accordance with the most up-to-date energy code will confer greater community resilience; energy efficient buildings pull less power from the grid during inclement weather, keeping the lights on not just

in new and efficient buildings, but on the entire block. Finally, the increase in upfront costs for new construction using this more up to date standard are marginal – building owners quickly become cashflow positive. Additionally, adoption of an up-to-date energy code will confer the following benefits:

- A single-family home built to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code will save \$174 annually on energy cost compared to the current outdated code that Texas uses.¹
- The update to Standard 90.1-2019 will result in expected total energy cost savings of over two million dollars in the first year and over a billion dollars over 30 years.²
- Multifamily housing projects built to the updated code will enable both residents and housing authorities to realize substantial average cost savings.
- Updated energy codes inherently create more resilience by requiring less energy to operate core systems, thus decreasing stress on the electrical grid. It is much less costly to decrease demand than to increase grid capacity.
- Updated codes ensure better indoor air quality through reduced emissions, protecting occupant health.
- Adoption and use of the most up to date energy codes creates jobs, makes homes more affordable over time, and increases property values.

Again, we support HB 3061's intent, and its proposed adoption of the current edition of the International Energy Conservation Code, and by extension ASHRAE Standard 90.1. This will benefit the people of Texas and result in a more valuable, resilient, and affordable built environment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact govaffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for all that you do for the state of Texas and your work to improve the Texan built environment.

Sincerely,



Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

¹ https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/TexasResidentialCostEffectiveness_2021_0.pdf

² https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/Cost-effectiveness_of_ASHRAE_Standard_90-1-2019-Texas.pdf