

Sent via e-mail to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

May 27, 2024

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Calandra,

This letter is regarding the updated Ontario Building Code which was released earlier this year. While the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is pleased to see that much of the Code has been harmonized with the national construction codes, we are disappointed that changes to strengthen energy efficiency requirements were not included in the new Code.

Climate change is a growing concern for municipalities and our residents. Municipalities are proactively looking for solutions to address climate change and the impacts of extreme weather events on our communities. Our residents are calling for tangible action. As a result, municipalities across the province have been declaring climate change emergencies, developing climate change action plans, and working to implement location solutions.

However, Bill 23 eliminated the ability for municipalities to integrate their environmental green standards through site plan control. This change paired with the *Municipal Act* only allowing municipalities to require “building to be constructed in accordance with the provisions of the building code” means that municipalities are significantly hindered in their ability to address climate change by requiring green standards for new buildings. National building codes promote energy efficiency and are aligned with municipal climate goals. However, only the province can set these standards, which limits local action on climate change.

Ontario urgently needs stricter energy efficiency building standards to boost energy efficiency and combat climate change. Improved standards would make buildings more efficient, reducing the demand on Ontario’s energy supply, lowering home heating costs for residents, and helping Ontario meet its net zero emission goals. With 1.5 million new homes planned by 2031, maximizing efficiency in these new constructions is critical to minimizing the environmental footprint of new growth.

AMO urges the province to either adopt the energy efficiency standards in the national construction codes as part of the Ontario Building Code or empower municipalities to set higher energy efficiency standards for buildings. This would empower both the province and its municipalities to take decisive action on climate change.

Sincerely,



Colin Best
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Regional Councillor, Halton Region

cc: Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing