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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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October 6, 2025

Mr. Willard “Buddy” Hughes
Chairman of the Board
National Association of Home Builders
1201 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled “Building the American Dream: Examining Affordability, Choice, and Security in Appliance and Buildings Policies.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert E. Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Latta" clearly legible, and "E." in the middle.

Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Robert Latta (R-OH)

1. The previous administration took a “whole of government” approach to develop and mandate green building policies to end use of fossil energy for heating and cooking. For example, the Biden DOE used a billion-dollar grant program to strong-arm states into adopting controversial “net-zero” building energy codes; the Biden DOE actively encouraged the use of stretch codes that banned natural gas but mandated the installation of EV chargers; and the Biden HUD announced new federal home efficiency mandates for government backed mortgages.
 - a. How have these policies already impacted Americans, despite President Trump’s efforts to correct course?
2. The National Association of Home Builders estimates that compliance with the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) could add up to \$31,000 in additional construction costs for some builders. Can you provide details on how that estimate was developed?

The Honorable Randy Weber (R-TX)

1. How important are cost-effective fuel neutral energy codes?
2. How do energy codes impact housing affordability?
3. Why is it important for homeowners to have access to mixed fuel homes?

The Honorable Rick Allen (R-GA)

1. Housing affordability is an issue for too many Americans, and we must focus on policies that expand housing accessibility. Do policy objectives included in recent International Energy Conservation Codes, like fuel switching, EV chargers, and forced electrification, help expand or restrict access to housing?

The Honorable Julie Fedorchak (R-ND)

1. The last several building code updates developed by the International Code Council (ICC) have clearly prioritized a “green” agenda over cost-efficient home construction. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have already adopted these latest ICC energy code standards for the homes they finance, effectively imposing the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) on those federally backed loans.

- a. In your view, what would be the effect on the U.S. housing market if Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were to adopt these standards?
2. You pointed out that in colder climates like New York—and North Dakota is much colder than New York—a full electrification mandate for new homes could add over \$15,000 in upfront costs. At today’s rates, that would add \$95 to your mortgage payment and \$34,000 in life-cycle costs.
 - a. With home ownership becoming a distant possibility for younger generations, is it reasonable for government to impose such costly electrification on every homebuyer?
3. In your testimony, you gave an example of a builder in Kansas City who found that complying with the 2021 IECC energy code added over \$12,000 in construction cost but only saved about \$125 per year in energy bills.
 - a. How do regulators justify disparities like this?
 - b. Does this approach risk harming housing affordability more than it helps the environment?
 - c. From your perspective as a home builder, why is it so important that we keep affordability front and center in energy policy debates?