

## News Release from



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### **Builders Propose More Energy Efficiency Savings Than State—at Lower Cost**

Lansing, MI - Today the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) announced the results of a new study analyzing the energy efficiency gains of an alternative code proposal they are asking the State of Michigan to adopt. Results from a study produced by the Home Innovation Research Labs (based in Upper Marlboro, Maryland) showed the HBAM proposed code changes would increase home energy savings by 13.6% on average across the state. Conversely, the U.S. Department of Energy says the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) proposal would result in savings of 10.7% on average.

“Today LARA’s Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) held a public comment forum on their proposed energy code changes and we underscored these important results in offering an alternative proposal,” noted HBAM CEO Bob Filka. “We support updating Michigan’s building codes and have proven the state can move forward a more cost-effective code that will not price-out hundreds of thousands of families from being able to afford a home. LARA doesn’t seem to care and is proceeding in an information vacuum suggesting the only path forward is a code developed by and for manufacturers who would like to mandate the use of their products instead of convincing home owners their products are worth purchasing.” LARA’s energy code proposal, as currently drafted, would require new residential homes (and most renovated homes) to have 2 X 6 wall framing, R-60 insulation in ceilings, inch-thick insulation on outside/exterior walls and redundant interior insulation on duct work among other costly items.

“We’ve been told by the BCC Director that he believes our proposal can’t be adopted because it isn’t a model code and state law requires the use of model codes,” said Filka. “But one must read state law in its entire context. That very same statute says the LARA Director may amend a model code anyway he or she deems necessary. Given our state’s housing affordability crisis, I would suggest amendments that improve energy savings and lower costs are absolutely necessary. We have been a partner with the Whitmer Administration in pursuing many new efforts to increase attainable housing production across the state. That positive momentum will be lost if we don’t balance the cost of new building code standards with housing attainability.”

*The Home Builders Association of Michigan is a professional trade association comprised of 18 local homebuilder associations around the state and their 5,000 builder, subcontractor and supplier members. HBAM works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing attainability.*

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