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Shubhada Kambli,
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TESTIMONY ON

HB 5008, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTARY ADOPTION BY MUNICIPALITIES

March 5, 2020

Honorable members of the Energy and Technology Committee, thank you for your consideration of our testimony related to H.B. 5008.

This bill is a critical component of a thoughtful statewide strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect residents from future financial harm. Stretch energy codes extend energy efficiency standards beyond the basics, and have the ability to reduce operating costs and save taxpayer dollars. It just makes sense to build for a greener future with modern building code standards, and take immediate action in the face of increasingly bleak climate news.

In Hartford, we've taken steps to increase renewable energy capacity through the Energy Improvement District Board, improve energy efficiency in municipal facilities, and help protect the homes of our residents from enormously high energy burdens through the Energy Equity Challenge. We're partnering with the utilities, ENERGY STAR and nonprofits to implement and promote a series of programs that allow property owners to measure and reduce energy use. Although we're starting with voluntary programs for safer, healthier and more comfortable buildings, no matter how well-intentioned we are, there's a limit to what we can accomplish across Hartford without better energy efficiency standards.

Crucially, there's also an economic development aspect to this bill. Regulations like this seed green jobs, which are essential for the continued growth of the region and the development of a self-sustaining, circular economy. Reduced facility costs will also reduce overhead, which has the potential to attract and keep businesses in CT.

Therefore, we strongly support H.B. 5008, and also, consumer protections identified in S.B. 177 (energy data transparency), and S.B. 175 (electric shutoff notifications). Stretch energy codes for new construction have been successfully adopted in more than 200 communities across Massachusetts. In New York State, NYStretch Energy Code – 2020 offers significant savings over the next base code. It's time for us to stop playing catch up, and be a leader on climate.



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We need bold strategies like this and SB 10 (vehicular emissions standards) to work towards our reductions targets of 80% by 2050. We urge you to support H.B. 5008 and a series of bills that secure our collective future, and protect our most vulnerable residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shubhada Kambli".

Shubhada Kambli
Sustainability Coordinator