

**Executive Summary
by Top Hat Consulting**

**Audrey Berlie (Sophomore), Sadie Jensen (Sophomore), and Amandine Louis-Charles
(Sophomore)**

Presented to

Mr. Dominic Sims (CEO) and Senior Staff of the ICC (identity of Judges)

The International Code Council (ICC) is a nonprofit organization responsible for writing model building codes that are often adopted by state and local jurisdictions. Since its inception, the ICC has allowed stakeholders, such as government officials and industry representatives, to equally vote on the regulations to be added to the model codes. This ended in 2011 when the ICC changed membership on code approval committees through a “secret deal” that favored industry trade groups voicing opposition to climate-friendly advancements. This resulted in ICC building codes becoming significantly less climate-friendly.

After years of the code development process being guided by builders and industry interests, hundreds of elected government officials signed up for the 2019 code voting process, breaking the participation record. They voted for the *most* energy efficient code in ICC history with improvements such as mandatory new-home wiring for appliances and electric cars. Unfortunately, many of these sustainability-minded codes were repealed by the ICC under the influence of industry representatives. In 2021, the ICC repealed the open voting process shutting out most government stakeholders.

We, Top Hat Consulting, highly recommend that the ICC reverse its 2011 and 2021 decision of giving partners who oppose climate-friendly resolutions an unjust influence over building code regulations. We believe that the ICC’s actions were unethical for two reasons. First, there was a conflict of interest that violated deontological ethics by going against the morals of the ICC. Second, the unfair industry representation severely stunted the energy efficiency of model codes, breaching utilitarian ethics by harming the community to benefit the few. We ask IBECC judges to assume the role of the ICC while we represent a consulting group hired to advise on the best legal, financial, and ethical way forward.

While the ICC is dedicated to creating standards that facilitate the “construction of safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures,” these goals cannot be achieved by neglecting the voices of all stakeholders. Our proposition ensures that the ICC creates resolutions that reflect the evolving needs of our communities for responsible household living by providing stakeholders the opportunity to build a sustainable future. By once again including ALL stakeholders in the building code approval process, we believe the ICC can regain the trust of a broader group of stakeholders and take a vital leadership role in helping to create a more sustainable environment for our communities today and tomorrow.

