Linda Burchfiel, 46 Camino Espejo, Santa Fe, NM 87507. 703-625-9190. Concerned citizen.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to state our views.

I urge the Construction Industries Commission to adopt the 2021 Energy Building Code, including the addition of EV charging stations. The Code is good for New Mexicans personally and also good for the nation. Energy efficient buildings have tight construction and no drafts or leaks, so they are more comfortable and need less heating or cooling fuel so are less expensive to maintain. A strict energy efficiency code is especially important for renters who aren’t able to inspect the building’s construction before signing a contract. They need to know that their rental unit is well constructed and will be comfortable and affordable to maintain. Adding EV charging stations is a very significant bonus because it enables New Mexicans who rent to take advantage of the cheap (3 cent/kw) overnight Time of Use electricity pricing. Charging with Time of Use pricing is much cheaper than filling up with gas.

Adopting the 2021 Building Code benefits the local community and the nation as well. Thanks to increased local demand for energy efficient products, more jobs will be created in the technology and construction sectors here in New Mexico. Because energy efficient buildings use less energy, there will be less pressure on the grid and less demand for new generation, saving us all future expense. New Mexicans who are paying less for heating and cooling will have more money available to spend locally, for movies, restaurants, and other goods and services.

The 2021 Building Code also benefits the entire nation and the whole world as well. Some 30-40% of green house gases are produced by fossil fuels used to heat and cool buildings, so reducing the need to heat and cool buildings will lower the impact of global warming to benefit all of us. We need to do what we can, including adopting the 2021 Building Code, to reduce the worst effects of climate change.