

# PROTECT HOMEOWNERS FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY ROLLBACKS

Building energy codes have cut home heating costs in half since 1992 by focusing on thermal protection. But now that progress could be reversed.



A building's **THERMAL ENVELOPE** includes its insulated foundations, roofs/ceilings, and walls, as well as doors and windows.

## What's the problem?



The 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) gives home builders more flexibility in how they meet energy efficiency requirements. The code can be misinterpreted to allow solar panels (PV systems) at the expense of building thermal envelope protection measures.



## Why is this bad for homeowners?

Degrading a thermal envelope to add PV means:



Less protection from the weather and elements



Higher energy bills



A need for larger and more expensive heating and cooling systems



Sacrificing reliable envelope efficiency for uncertain long-term PV performance

Degrading envelope measures to add PV results in homes that cost more and use more energy.

## How can we help homeowners?



State and local building code authorities should clarify and reaffirm that onsite generation technologies, like rooftop PV, are not replacements for thermally efficient building envelopes. Technologies like PV can add to the efficiency and performance of new homes only as enhancements beyond thermal protection, not as replacements.