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James W. Tobin III
Executive Vice President & Chief Lobbyist

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Key Vote

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I write in support of H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*. This bill provides pragmatic energy and climate solutions while preserving housing affordability and homeowner energy choice. **Because of the bill's importance to the home building industry, NAHB has designated support for the passage of H.R. 1 as a KEY VOTE.** NAHB also supports amendment No. 114 offered by Reps. Gary Palmer (R-AL) and Debbie Lesko (R-AZ) that prohibits the Secretary of Energy from implementing a rule that would limit consumer access to gas stoves. **Accordingly, NAHB has designated a vote in support of the Palmer/Lesko gas stove amendment as a KEY VOTE.**

NAHB applauds the bill's repeal of Section 50131 of the Inflation Reduction Act which provides \$1 billion to pressure state and local governments to adopt costly energy codes, such as the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings. While NAHB supports the adoption of cost-effective, modern energy codes, we oppose these grant programs that limit amendments to the energy code that accommodate local conditions. Moreover, NAHB is exceedingly concerned with the \$670 million set aside in the grant program that promotes the adoption of the zero-energy provisions of the 2021 IECC. These zero-energy targets are not realistic or cost-effective for many jurisdictions.

Forcing the adoption of costly and restrictive energy codes to qualify for these grants would exacerbate the current housing affordability crisis and limit energy choices for consumers. Adoption of the 2021 IECC can cost a homebuyer as much as \$31,000 in additional costs and can take as long as 90 years for homeowners to see a payback from these investments. Implementation of these grants would result in fewer families being able to achieve the American dream of homeownership.

Furthermore, NAHB supports the Palmer/Lesko gas stove amendment because homeowners should have a choice when it comes to the appliances and energy sources used in their homes. For the over 187 million Americans who use natural gas, this choice will have a significant impact on families, saving them an average of \$1,068 each year. The passage of this amendment will protect a consumer's right to use the energy and appliances of their choice.

Again, due to the importance of these issues to the home building industry, NAHB has designated support for the passage of:

- **H.R. 1 as a KEY VOTE; and**
- **The Palmer/Lesko gas stove amendment as a KEY VOTE.**

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James W. Tobin III', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

James W. Tobin III