



October 27, 2020

Honorable Members of the Indianapolis City-County Council
200 E. Washington St. #241
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Benchmarking and Transparency Ordinance

Dear Councilors:

The ASHRAE Central Indiana Chapter which represents over 300 Engineers in the Indianapolis Metro Area, is writing in strong support of the proposed Benchmarking and Transparency Ordinance. This ordinance will effectively create the equivalent of a Miles Per Gallon rating for our buildings by measuring their annual energy and water use and recording it in a publicly accessible database.

Indianapolis sources 88% of its energy from the burning of fossil fuels, and as the city seeks to simultaneously generate economic growth and transition towards clean energy sources, managing the energy use of our commercial buildings will be key because we cannot manage what we do not measure. The Benchmarking and Transparency will facilitate these goals by enhancing consumer awareness of building performance metrics, which will create a market-based incentive for building owners to pursue energy efficiency. This market-based influence will:

1. Lead to economic development and job creation related to energy-efficient improvements.
2. Reduce the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings.
3. Reduce energy costs for businesses and building owners.
4. Provide energy information to building owners and tenants, driving a marketplace focus on continuous improvement.
5. Provide City leaders with key information on utility usage that will inform plans to upgrade and expand our City's utility infrastructure.

Indianapolis has made a crucial commitment to the health of its citizens and our planet by adopting the Thrive Indianapolis Plan, which lists the adoption of a benchmarking ordinance as one of its goals. By adopting this ordinance, Indianapolis will join several of our neighbors in the Midwest that have adopted similar policies including Chicago, Columbus, Des Moines, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

This ordinance is aligned with ASHRAE core values at the national level, including our goal to achieve carbon neutrality in the built environment by 2030; and our members have the skills and knowledge to help building owners make informed decisions as it relates to energy efficient improvements, as well as assist and train building owners in the reporting of energy use data. We are proud to support the Benchmarking and Transparency Ordinance as it is considered by the Council in 2020, and look forward to partnering with the City in 2021 and beyond as it is implemented.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Fick".

Doug Fick
Assistant Regional Chair Region V

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Rovder".

Alex Rovder
Central Indiana Chapter President

Cc: Joseph Yount – AIA Indianapolis
Tony Schoelein – Government Affairs Chair
Douglas Zentz – Director and Regional Chair Region V