

Dear (Editor Name),

In this troubled economy, many Utah families are struggling to keep dinner on the table and a roof over their heads. It is a shame, then, that most families are throwing hundreds and thousands of dollars away on unnecessarily higher energy bills and costly repairs because their homes were built to outdated building codes and aren't as energy efficient as they could be.

This doesn't have to be the case for future homeowners if Utah lawmakers take the opportunity this session to ensure all new homes are built energy smart from the start. **This opportunity could come as early as today** as the House discusses a bill to codify the state's existing building codes ([HB 203](#)).

A simple amendment to this bill would bring residential building codes in line with the latest energy-saving standards. By doing so, homeowners and renters could **save 10 to 17 percent on energy spending each year – or \$175 to \$242 for the average Utah home**, and avoid the need to make costly energy fixes to homes after they are built which can run up to **\$5,000 and more**.

Savings would be immediate and ongoing for homeowners – even after taking into account any increases in construction costs or mortgage to build homes to the updated code. And it doesn't have to cost builders any more to build to updated codes. In fact, some Utah builders are already building at or above the latest code at no extra cost to buyers. These builders are also beating out their competition and selling more homes because more homeowners these days are looking for more affordable and comfortable energy-efficient homes.

Last year, Utah lawmakers adopted updated codes for commercial construction but left homes out in the cold - literally. Why should Utah homeowners not enjoy the same money savings and comfort that come with buildings built to updated codes as commercial property owners? Furthermore, why should we risk losing out on attracting new residents and development to the state because our housing market is less competitive with surrounding states that have already adopted updated codes?

I hope you consider editorializing on this important issue and I can put you in touch with homeowners dealing with costly and invasive energy fixes to new homes and homebuilders that are already building to the latest energy-saving code at no extra cost. I can also arrange for a meeting with these contacts with your editorial board.

Thank you for your attention and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Brandy Smith  
Utah Clean Energy