

July 16, 2026

Brad Redekopp, MP
Member of Parliament for Saskatoon West
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Sent via email: Brad.Redekopp@parl.gc.ca

RE: SUPPORT FOR BILL C-287, THE HOUSING COST TRANSPARENCY ACT

Dear Mr. Redekopp,

On behalf of the more than 6,000 construction and resource companies that make up the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA), Canada's largest construction association, I am writing to express our support for Bill C-287, the *Housing Cost Transparency Act*.

For years, ICBA has made a straightforward argument: every regulation added to a home is a cost passed on to the family that buys or rents it. Bill C-287 does not stop a single code improvement. It simply requires the system to show its work before it adds to the price of a home. That is a reasonable standard for any country in a housing crisis, and it is long overdue.

ICBA members build homes, offices, schools, hospitals, roads, pipelines and major projects across British Columbia and Alberta. We are the largest sponsor of construction apprentices in British Columbia, and roughly 85 percent of the province's construction workforce works open shop, for companies like ours. Our members live with the cost of code changes every day. They are the ones who have to price them, absorb them and explain them to a buyer who simply wants an affordable place to live.

The trouble today is that national model code changes are developed with very little public accounting of what they cost or who pays. Builders and buyers usually find out after the fact, when the price has already gone up. Bill C-287 fixes the upstream half of that problem in a sensible way. Requiring the National Research Council to publish a plain-language cost and impact summary for every material housing-related proposal – with real dollar estimates, stated assumptions, and the names and affiliations of those advancing the change – is basic accountability. So is a public registry that shows the combined cost impact of each new code edition, rather than burying it one change at a time.

This is not a theoretical concern for us. Next month, ICBA will release a detailed analysis of exactly how regulation drives up the cost of housing; a clause-by-clause read, assisted by artificial intelligence, of every rule governing a single mid-rise condo project in two British Columbia cities. Among other things, it documents a building whose energy performance must be certified four separate times by four different branches of one city, an embodied-carbon requirement found nowhere else in the province, and layers of process attached to a home with no public accounting of what any of it adds to the price. It also found roughly a year's difference

in approval times between the two cities – and hundreds of thousands of dollars in carrying costs that are ultimately paid by the family who buys the home. The lesson is the one that animates your bill: when governments add requirements without pricing them, someone always pays, and it is almost never the government.

We are also glad to see the bill respect the constitutional roles of the provinces, territories and municipalities, which retain their authority over adopting and enforcing codes. This is transparency, not a federal power grab, and that distinction matters.

In British Columbia, our members have watched layers of new requirements, the Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code among them, added to the cost of a home with little upfront, plain-language explanation of who pays and how much. As an example, one of our members has three projects under way, all in Metro Vancouver, and each is being built under a different building code – adding unnecessary cost and complexity. A national discipline of costing code changes before they are imposed would give governments at every level a benchmark worth matching.

We would welcome the opportunity to support this bill as it moves forward. We can provide member data and real-world cost examples, share an advance copy of next month's report, and appear before committee to give evidence if that would be useful. Canadians need homes, not hidden costs, and Bill C-287 helps make sure they can see the difference.

Sincerely,

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND BUSINESSES ASSOCIATION



Chris Gardner
President and CEO

CC

Scott Aitchison, Official Opposition Shadow Minister for Housing scott.aitchison@parl.gc.ca

Aaron Wudrick, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Official Opposition

aaron.wudrick@parl.gc.ca

Conservative Party of Canada British Columbia MPs

Conservative Party of Canada Alberta MPs

Á'a:liya Warbus, B.C. Official Opposition Critic for Housing, a.warbus@leg.bc.ca