

Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago
190 South LaSalle St, Suite 2500
Chicago, IL 60603

312.870.9600
bomachicago.org



June 11, 2026

Chair Gilbert Villegas, Vice Chair Bennett Lawson, and Members of the City Council Zoning Committee
Chicago City Council
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chair Villegas, Vice Chair Lawson, and Members of the Committee,

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago (BOMA/Chicago) represents Chicago's office building industry. Our membership includes 240 commercial office, institutional, and public buildings and 200 companies that provide goods and services to support their operational excellence.

On behalf of Chicago's commercial office industry, we write to express our strong support for the Department of Buildings' (DOB) ordinance updating the City's Construction Codes.

Modernizing Chicago's codes using national model standards makes commercial buildings safer, more energy-efficient, and less costly to construct, while giving contractors and design professionals a clearer, more predictable framework. Using model codes also ensures Chicago remains aligned with best practices used across the country.

The ordinance preserves Chicago's ability to tailor the code to local conditions, ensuring flexibility for our unique commercial building stock, climate, and dense urban environment while maintaining the consistency practitioners rely on in other jurisdictions. This clarity is especially valuable as downtown is seeing more adaptive reuse, where older buildings need modern, flexible standards to support successful redevelopment.

We also want to recognize the DOB for its continued engagement with the office industry. DOB has consistently listened to industry concerns, met regularly with our Building Codes Committee, and provided a recent in-depth presentation on the proposed updates – continuing a productive dialogue that has spanned over a decade.

We are also encouraged by the energy code refinements, which help to resolve long-standing uncertainty about how requirements apply to smaller interior projects in commercial buildings, such as conference room buildouts. We appreciate DOB's responsiveness and commitment to further clarify these provisions for our members.

Finally, a modernized, nationally aligned code framework strengthens Chicago's competitiveness. Modern standards attract more developers, design professionals, and businesses. At a time when many investors are avoiding Chicago because of high property taxes and pension obligations, updating the Construction Codes is a concrete step to supporting new investment and growth.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to approve the Construction Codes Ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Farzin Parang".

Farzin Parang, Executive Director
Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago (BOMA/Chicago)