

July 19, 2024

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City of Baxter
Planning and Zoning Commission
13190 Memorywood Drive
Baxter, MN 56425

To the Planning and Zoning Commission and Members of Baxter City Council and Staff:

We are writing to request an amendment to the city's 10-4-10 Architectural Design Standards regarding exterior siding requirements. As the standard is currently written, lap siding is not on the list of allowable materials per section E of the code. The buildings in the city that currently have lap siding are aging and will need replacement soon, so adding lap siding as an allowable material would be beneficial.

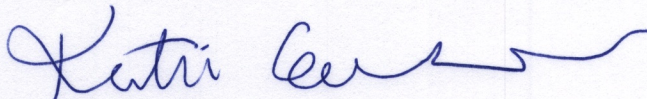
Many advancements have been made in siding materials and modern lap siding has many benefits that should be considered:

- Aesthetics that are more in-line with modern design
- Materials that are 100% recyclable
- Lifespan comparable to stucco and other commercial products
- Warranties that include hail and fade protection
- Increased energy efficiency
- Protect the building itself from water, pests and insects
- Most come with 30-year, or longer, warranties

In short, modern lap siding has the durability to withstand extreme weather conditions without comprising the beauty of the product which makes it a material that commercial businesses should be able to consider.

We respectfully ask that you revise the code.

Sincerely,



Katie Goenner