THERMAL BRIDGING
R25 does not equal R20+5ci

Why? **Thermal bridging!** The added R5ci reduces heat loss through both the wall cavity and the framing members. A cavity insulation only wall using R29 (2x8 framing) is equivalent to R20+5ci (2x6) or R13+10ci (2x4). The effect is even greater with steel framing – steel is more conductive than wood.
Visualizing the Value of CI: Thermal Imaging of Thermal Bridging

Before
OSB and R-13 batts (cavity insulation only)

After
½” rigid foam CI added

Source: Dryvit/DOW
Several states and local jurisdictions have amended the code to replace the R20+5ci with an R25 only requirement. This results in watered down energy efficiency standards from what is intended by the model codes. Advocated by builders and certain reflective industry experts.