

September 20, 2019

Dear Members of the State Building Code Council:

My name is Sarah Clark and I am one of two primary operators of Home Resource Company Inc. Home Resource Company is located in Olympia and we employ over 10 individuals and work on approximately 35 residential construction projects every year. Home Resource Company, Inc. has been locally family owned and operated for 40 years and provides good, living wage jobs, contributes to the community and has a vested interest in providing homes, and jobs, to the citizens of our region.

I am very concerned that the proposed amendments to the 2018 Energy Code will significantly harm my ability to do business. Specifically, 19 of the proposed amendments have a significant cost associated with implementation. Artificially increasing the cost of building means that the cost of homes will go up. I know that homeownership is beneficial to a community and beyond that, I care about my customers individually.

Across Washington, for every \$1,000 added to the cost of a new home it prices 2,393 people out of the new home market. Based on the increased cost my company saw in implementing the 2015 energy code requirements, the proposed 2018 energy code requirements could easily add \$8,000-\$10,000 to the cost of construction for stick-built homes. That means I lose thousands of potential customers – my business suffers, and those customers are robbed of the opportunity to find reasonably affordable housing options.

If these code requirements move forward, not only do I expect to suffer but my colleagues with small, often family-run, construction businesses are in real danger of being put out of business. In a time when all of Washington is experiencing a shortage of skilled trades labor, the last thing we need is policy that is functionally a death-sentence to many builders.

While I understand it is the mandate of the State Building Code Council to implement policy that will increase the energy efficiency of new construction, I urge you to remember how vitally important it is to provide code that addresses the needs of both energy targets and the needs of the industry that will have to execute them.

Home Resource Company Inc. respectfully requests that you reconsider the introduction of the proposed amendments into the Washington State Energy Code. As drafted, it is so onerous on small business contractors and future homeowners that revisions alone cannot redeem it.

Sincerely yours,
Sarah Clark