



September 27, 2019

Washington State Building Code Council  
Doug Orth, Council Chair  
1500 Jefferson Ave. SE  
PO Box 41449  
Olympia, WA 98504-1449

Dear Chair Orth and the Washington State Building Code Council:

King County and the cities of Burien, Kenmore, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Sammamish, and Snoqualmie are commenting jointly on the proposed 2018 State Residential Code now before the State Building Code Council. We are providing these comments as elected leaders representing nearly 500,000 Washington state residents.

We would like to offer our support for the proposed 2018 Washington State Residential Energy Code. We support these code changes as they provide energy savings and long-term cost savings for residents. Passage of these codes keeps us on a path toward the statewide goal of reducing energy use in new construction by 70 percent by 2031, which the State Legislature enacted in 2009, and Governor Inslee further supported with Executive Order 14-04.

Confronting climate change and accelerating the transition to a clean energy economy are top priorities for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), a coalition of local governments - King County, 16 cities and the Port of Seattle – working to advance a shared goal of reducing carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050. The jurisdictions in the K4C represent nearly 1.6 million residents, or 80 percent, of King County's total population. The members of the K4C work together to develop solutions that protect the health and well-

being of our residents and natural environment, while ensuring an equitable transformation to a clean energy economy.

The built environment is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in King County. In a 2017 inventory, emissions from the residential built environment were 24 percent of all emissions. Strong residential energy codes are essential to reaching the K4C's carbon emission reduction target and supporting a transition to a carbon-free energy system established by the Clean Energy Transformation Act (ESSB 5116).

We would like to emphasize our support for proposed changes in the code that provide long-term benefits of clean indoor air quality and cost savings to homeowners and renters through deep efficiency. Specifically, we support the collection of key proposed amendments (Proposals 23 and 31) that will increase the efficiency of the residential code by 19 percent. We support the proposals to increase the number of credits required and the addition of new technologies and building methods that provide flexibility to meet the credit threshold.

We also strongly support Proposal 35, which provides for the optional "Reach Code" appendices that would allow us, as local government leaders, to provide incentives in our own jurisdictions that accelerate efficient residential building.

Thank you for the opportunity to advance the health and well-being of our residents through comfortable and efficient homes. We support a residential energy code that is as efficient as possible, and we urge the Council to approve this code.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive



Claudia Balducci  
King County Council  
District Six



Austin Bell  
Deputy Mayor, City of Burien



Nancy Tosta  
Councilmember, City of Burien



Nigel Herbig  
Deputy Mayor, City of Kenmore



Jay Arnold  
Deputy Mayor, City of Kirkland



Debbie Bertlin  
Mayor, City of Mercer Island



Bruce Bassett  
Councilmember, City of Mercer Island



Benson Wong  
Councilmember, City of Mercer Island



Pam Stuart  
Councilmember, City of Sammamish



Matt Larson  
Mayor, City of Snoqualmie