

From: Patty Tanninen <lakewoodgas@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 4:20 PM

To: DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>

Subject: Letter for Gas Fireplace Efficiency Rating

Hello Building Code Council,

Attached is my letter addressing my concerns of the gas fireplace efficiency rating regulations. Please consider my views when voting to adopt this building code.

Thank you,

Patty Tanninen

lakewoodgas@gmail.com

My name is Patty Tanninen, owner of Lakewood Gas. We are a family owned business in Clark County, Washington. For 33 years Lakewood Gas has been providing gas piping and fireplaces to a number of local builders and homeowners. We currently have 10 employees including myself and my husband along with two sons as part owners. As my sons turn 18 they are becoming partners in the business. My son-in-law has also gone into business doing gas piping and fireplace installs. He supports his wife and four children. Some of our past employees have gone on to open their own gas businesses or work in the Natural Gas field. Not only does Lakewood Gas support their employees and families but also the local dealers and stores as consumers.

We install gas piping and fireplaces in roughly 40 houses per month. About 65% of our business is installing and supplying fireplaces for homes. Many of these fireplaces we install are the Heat-N-Glo DV37 which is a standard builder's model. They have an efficiency rating of 60.4% which does not satisfy the requirements under the new proposed law. The lower cost fireplaces are for decoration and not to be used as a heat source. Majority of homeowner's and builders add fireplaces for the aesthetic. These fireplaces are used for a couple of hours for sitting in front of the fireplace and enjoying a cup of coffee or visiting with friends. These are not used for long periods of time or for heating a home. They give off some heat but the sole purpose is for decoration. If only fireplaces with efficiency rating of 65 percent or greater can be put into homes, it will be unaffordable for many new homeowners and builders as the heater rated fireplaces are more expensive. It will add at least \$3000-\$4000 to the price of new homes. The Clark County area especially is already a hard place for many new homebuyers to afford. Do we really need to make it harder?

We would like to ask that you as the State of Washington Building Code Council would oppose or at least amend the proposal of The Washington Residential Energy Code- R402.4.2.1 Gas Fireplace Efficiency. This proposed code should be discussed with people in the hearth

industry to come to an appropriate solution that will be beneficial to all. Thank you for taking your time to consider our concerns.