

March 31, 2020

To the WA State Building Code Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Master Builders Association of Pierce County (MBA Pierce). MBA Pierce represents 700 member companies who are industry professionals that are committed to building homes at attainable price points, even in times of uncertainty.

Our members believe in following all international, state and local building standards; they work diligently to make sure their job sites are safe for their crews and subcontractors, for the communities they build in, for the natural environment, and for the families that will eventually live in the homes they help create. Furthermore, they make sure their employees receive consistent training on code and safety standards. They do everything they can to ensure safe, efficient homes are available to Washingtonians.

We are writing today to ask you to postpone the implementation of the 2018 Building Codes. Our members had plans in place to participate in training and educational opportunities for the code changes; to learn best practices and educate their employees; to work with other experts in their field to share information about design practices, materials, suppliers, and construction techniques. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Because our members care about their neighbors and safety, they practiced social distancing and limiting group gatherings. As a result, they are not getting the training we desperately need.

In a time of extreme uncertainty, as a county and as an industry, how can our members implement major code changes without appropriate education, while balancing an ever-evolving world of regulations, health practices and orders, wherein they may or may not be able to work? MBA Pierce appreciates the work that your council has done to develop the 2018 Building Code. We ask you to acknowledge that our members have no practical way of preparing for those changes during this uncertain time. Please postpone the implementation of the 2018 Building Code. Thank you for your consideration to these comments.

Always,



Jessie Gamble
Government Affairs Director