

March 31, 2020

To the WA State Building Code Council:

My name is Evan Mann and I am writing as an employee of SoundBuilt Homes. We are a residential home building company located in Pierce County. On average, we employ 30-40 people and work hard to contribute to our community through homebuilding.

SoundBuilt Homes believes in following all international, state and local building standards. We work diligently to make sure our job sites are safe for our crews and subcontractors, for the communities we build in, for the natural environment, and for the families that will eventually live in the homes we help create. We abide by all state and local code. We make sure our employees receive consistent training on code and safety standards.

We do everything we can to ensure safe, efficient homes are available to our neighbors.

I am writing today to ask you to postpone the implementation of the 2018 Building Codes. We had plans in place to participate in training and educational opportunities for the code changes. We had plans to learn best practices and educate our employees. We had plans to work with other experts in our field to share information about design practices, materials, suppliers, and construction techniques.

And then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Because we care about our neighbors and safety, we practiced social distancing and limiting group gatherings – and the result we are not getting the training we desperately need.

In a time of extreme uncertainty, as a county and as an industry, how can we implement major code changes without appropriate education, while balancing an ever-evolving world of regulations, health practices and orders, wherein we may or may not be able to work?

SoundBuilt Homes appreciates the work that your council has done to develop the 2018 Building Code. We ask you to acknowledge that we have no practical way of preparing for those changes during this uncertain time. Please, postpone the implementation of the 2018 Building Code.

Sincerely yours,

Evan Mann
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