



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

State Building Code Council
1500 Jefferson St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

June 11, 2020

Re: Consideration of Further Delay of the 2018 Washington State Building Codes

Chair Glenn and Members of the State Building Code Council:

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of around 100 environmental, civic, and human service organizations, progressive utilities, and businesses working for clean and affordable energy. For more than 40 years, we have advocated for policies that promote energy efficiency, as it is the cheapest, cleanest, and most abundant source of energy to meet our region's demand for energy.

There is an item on the agenda for the June 12, 2020 meeting regarding further delay of the 2018 Washington State Building Codes, which are set to go into effect in November 2020. On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I ask that the State Building Code Council not consider this request at this time and instead moves ahead with implementation for November.

This body adopted the commercial codes in July 2019 and the residential codes in November 2019, with a planned implementation date of July 2020. As part of COVID-19 response, in April 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-40, which delayed implementation of all new state building codes until November 2020 to address concerns regarding moving to virtual trainings during the course of the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. Since then, many trainings have moved virtually, including the NEEA-funded training for the commercial and residential energy codes. Later in April, a request was made to further delay implementation of the building codes, but in a May 19, 2020 letter, Governor Inslee stated:

"Delaying the implementation of the 2018 code – which will already have been delayed by more than 16 months by the time it takes effect in November – does not serve Washingtonians."

We agree with Governor Inslee. As a coalition of organizations focused on the best policy to bring clean and affordable energy in the Northwest, energy efficiency is key to meeting our clean energy targets and to keep energy rates affordable. And building codes are a key piece to ensuring that we're using our resources responsibly. These updated building codes will ensure that Washingtonians are living and working in the healthy, resilient, and efficient buildings—buildings that will be around for decades after construction.

We thank you for your consideration and time.

Best,

Amy Wheelless
Policy Associate