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April 10, 2020

Diane Glenn, Chair
State Building Code Council
PO Box 41449
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chair Glenn,

On behalf of Mason County and in my role representing western Washington counties on the State Building Code Council, I am writing to formally request the Council consider further delaying implementation of the 2018 building and energy code, extending the order issued by Gov. Inslee, to July 1, 2021. I have heard directly from builders across Washington who are concerned implementing code changes November 1, does not provide enough time to adjust to the new realities we are facing.

Currently, Washington businesses deemed non-essential, such as residential builders, are scrambling to keep their businesses afloat and workers employed so they may return to production once the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order is lifted. We must not compound the problem by implementing the 2018 code before the industry has a chance to adjust. This is especially critical given our state's well-documented shortage of affordable housing. Further, we have heard concerns about supply chain challenges as building comes back online, creating serious concerns for manufacturers, builders and all those industries building activity supports. We must take these all seriously and act accordingly.

Finally, a delay would benefit regulators at the local level who are now faced with steep reductions in revenue as well as strained, and in some jurisdictions reduced, staffing levels because of the actions taken to address the global health crisis. In my County, I am concerned I will not be able to fund the needed training for staff in this fiscal year so they may accurately and safely enforce the code changes adopted by the Council. I know I am not alone in this concern.

If, as a Council and state, we are truly concerned with improving access to safe, reliable and affordable housing and a thriving construction industry, we must further delay the implementation of the 2018 code to July 1, 2021.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Shutty".

Kevin Shutty