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Building Officials**

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Administered By

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LLC** (Olympia, Washington)

December 30, 2020

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

Chair Glenn,

On behalf of the Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO) I would like to encourage you to maintain the current implementation date of the 2018 Washington State Building Code. Additional extensions to the adoption date would undermine the countless hours of volunteer time and the integrity of the Washington State Building Code Council (SBCC) itself. In every legislative cycle, bills are introduced that attempt to create building code regulation through legislation. In every legislative cycle, WABO pleads with legislators to use the process established by the SBCC. If our elected officials continue to see delay after delay, they may lose confidence in this process and will be less likely to support the SBCC and the good work it does.

WABO members have been working to modify ordinances and complete all the necessary work to implement the new code starting February 1st. Many jurisdictions have already finalized modifications approved by their City / County Councils. If the SBCC approves another extension those Building Officials and Councils will have to redo the work they have already completed.

WABO is sympathetic to all businesses affected by the COVID-19 virus. Like the rest of the building industry, our members have had to change how they do business overnight in order to accommodate the communities they serve. It was for these reasons we supported the initial extension. That extension allowed time for WABO to organize virtual training and for Washington State University to create additional online tools and training for the energy code.

WABO takes exceptions to portions of Greg Lane's letter to you dated December 10, 2020 where he implies that building officials haven't had the opportunity for adequate training and that the delay will help local governments with strained revenue staffing short falls. This simply is not true. In fact, building officials have used the time gained in the last delay of the code implementation to train our staff, create new COVID procedures and align staffing levels with the current work activity. After removing the local government reason for extending the delay, Mr. Lane only offers a few vague reasons such as avoiding hasty decision making and supply chain issues, although no specifics. It appears that these latest attempts to delay the implementation of the new codes are specifically targeted towards the energy code.

We would implore the council to avoid being used as a vehicle to circumvent the established process. It is not likely a six-week extension would make a difference regardless, therefore I encourage you to please move forward with the previously approved implementation date as planned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Aldworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kurt" written in a larger, more distinct script than the last name "Aldworth".

Kurt Aldworth, President
Washington Association of Building Officials