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December 10, 2020

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

Chair Glenn,

On behalf of builders throughout Washington State, the Building Industry Association of Washington requests that the Washington State Building Code Council delay implementation of the 2018 Washington State Building Code to March 15th 2021. The continual extension of the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order by Governor Inslee, which now runs into January 2021, continues to harm residential homebuilding, one of our state's most important industries, as well as impede the ability of builders and building officials to learn about, and comply with, the updated code.

Though the orders are justified to protect its citizens, Washington businesses require time to organize, adjust to, and overcome the challenges facing them daily throughout the global health crises. Builders deserve the consideration of this extension.

One state municipality, the city of Seattle, has already extended the implementation of their city building codes to March 15, 2021. We strongly encourage the state of Washington to follow the lead of the Emerald City.

This extension will benefit regulators at the local level that are facing strained revenue and staffing shortages, businesses related to the supply chain of residential home building, and even the burgeoning affordable housing deficit. Granting this extension will allow builders and industry leaders to make the necessary adjustments to their businesses without hasty decision-making and less than thorough implementation, saving time and money.

It is for the reasons above, we ask the council to give thoughtful consideration to delaying the implementation of the state building code to March 15, 2021.

Respectfully,

Greg Lane
Executive Vice President
Building Industry Association of Washington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Lane", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.