

January 6, 2021

Chair Diane Glenn & SBCC Members
State Building Code Council

Re: 2018 state code implementation

Dear Chair Glenn & Council Members:

We are writing to express our opposition to a further delay of the implementation of the updated 2018 Washington State Building Codes from the already twice-delayed date of February 1.

**The American Institute of
Architects**

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Earlier delays were implemented to give the state and impacted industries time to reschedule cancelled training sessions and to adjust to a virtual environment for new training events and related activities. We assert that this has been done, with adequate time for providers interested in making it happen to develop virtual programming and offer that training to practitioners. Architects are ready for the switch and are already implementing the new code.

Setting a firm implementation date and sticking to it provides certainty for architects and others in the AEC industry who are already working on projects designed to the new code. Without this certainty, some projects remain in limbo in terms of timing and selection of the governing code – which has a direct impact on project costs.

Each time a new code cycle is implemented, architects have found that the industry adjusts quickly, with the new requirements spurring development of products and techniques needed to meet the new code. These improvements are needed on a regular basis to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public and to help Washington meet its climate targets as mandated by the Legislature and the executive branch.

Additionally, architects believe progressive codes, particularly energy codes, are the single most important factor in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. Without new code cycles, the market stagnates with no reason to innovate, and the improvements that drive the development of more sustainable and healthier buildings are lost. The 2018 codes had already been delayed a year prior to their approval in 2019, and subsequent delays have shifted the industry again. Washington's energy codes are leading the nation in combating climate change precisely because they demand improvements on a regular schedule designed to meet the climate-related mandates set forth by the legislative and executive branches. We cannot afford to lose that momentum now.

Please retain the February 2021 implementation date as previously agreed to by this body.

Respectfully,



Carl Dominguez
President



Tammie Sueirro
Executive Director