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Cc: Jeff Losey; Jan Himebaugh
Subject: 2018 Building Code Implementation Delay Request

Greetings!

We are a single family residential home builder in Kennewick, WA. As you are aware, our area has been one of the areas in the State that's been the hardest hit by COVID-19 both in terms of infection rates, and economically due to the prolonged shut downs. The effect of the pandemic on the local economy in general, and new housing specifically, has been enormous. Not only have we seen MASSIVE increases in lumber costs, but there have also been shortages, making building progress hard to manage. Coupled with the other cost increases across the board, difficulty in getting other input materials, as well as the low and inconsistent availability of labor, has made an already weak supply of housing even weaker--AND much more expensive.

On behalf of ourselves, and other builders throughout Washington State that we have spoken with, we respectfully ask that the Washington State Building Code Council delay implementation of the 2018 Washington State Building Code to at least March 15th 2021. The continual extension of the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order by Governor Inslee, which now runs into January 2021, has not only harmed the State economically, but it has also hampered the ability of builders and building officials to learn about, and comply with, the updated code. We believe builders --and prospective home buyers-- 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 at least March 15, 2021.

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