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Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 9:12 AM

To: DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>

Cc: Bumbalov, Stoyan (DES) <stoyan.bumbalov@des.wa.gov>; Schaffert, David (ESD Partner) <dschaffert@thurstonchamber.com>

Subject: Comments from the Thurston Chamber: commercial energy codes 21-GP1-103, 21-GP1-136 and 21-GP1-179

External Email

Members of the Washington State Building Codes Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce and want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed commercial energy codes 21-GP1-103, 21-GP1-136 and 21-GP1-179.

The Thurston County Chamber asks that the Council carefully consider and assess the potential negative impacts the proposed commercial energy codes may have on the State's Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) businesses and communities, as well as other historically marginalized individuals and groups.

We understand that these proposals will restrict the ability for commercial entries, new and old, to choose the energy source that best meets their needs and circumstances. We believe that forcing business to rely entirely on the electric system, as proposed, will very likely increase costs. The proposed changes will disproportionately harm BIPOC individuals, families, businesses, and communities and further ensure existing racial inequities continue based on the ability to pay for these policy decisions.

Please give careful consideration to the negative impacts that restricting energy sources may have on BIPOC businesses and communities and our shared efforts to eliminate racial inequities across the state. Please let me know if you have any question regarding our comments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed commercial energy codes 21-GP1-103, 21-GP1-136 and 21-GP1-179.

- Doug Mah, Director Public Policy Division, Thurston County Chamber