

From: David Morton <davidwardmorton@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 9:23 AM

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

Subject: A public comment to SBCC members for the SBCC meeting on 9/17/21 regarding WSEC - Commercial Code Proposals - 2021

External Email

Dear State Building Code Council members,

I'm David Morton, an environmentalist and advocate for building electrification. I live near Redmond, Washington, where I'm a member of Kenmore Clean Air Coalition and sometimes volunteer for the Sierra Club and People for Climate Action.

You have before you numerous updates to the Washington State commercial energy code proposed by Jonny Kocher of the Rocky Mountain Institute. I urge you to move these updates forward to public comment.

Buildings are one of the largest and fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington — and we're creating more emissions as our state's population increases. As we build large, new buildings, these code updates ensure that we do so sustainably and responsibly.

The proposed changes to code favor the use of heat pumps for space heating and water heating. Heat pumps run on clean electricity and are 200-400% more energy-efficient than gas equipment.

As the climate crisis worsens, phasing out fossil fuels is critical. Making these updates now will prevent costly renovations down the road.

With Washington State on a pathway to 100% carbon neutral electricity, there is a compelling need to move towards using primarily electricity in our buildings and to eliminate fossil fuel use wherever possible.

I support Jonny Kocher's energy code proposals for the WSEC, and I ask that you send the full package of proposals out to public comment.

Sincerely,

David Morton
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