

Members of the State Building Codes Council,

My name is Dylan Plummer, and I'm the Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club working on Building Electrification in Oregon and Washington. The Sierra Club is a national environmental non-profit. In Washington State alone, we have 32,000 members, and well over 100,000 supporters working for environmental and climate justice.

On behalf of our membership across the state, I urge you to move the proposed updates to the Washington State commercial energy code forward to public comment. Buildings are one of the largest and fastest-growing sources of climate pollution in Washington, even as the state's electric grid becomes increasingly made up of renewable energy sources. Buildings are also a massive source of outdoor air pollution - a recent Harvard study showed that in Washington, burning fossil fuels in buildings was responsible for 52 premature deaths and over \$577 million in health impacts from outdoor air pollution in 2017 alone. 94% of those impacts were from burning gas in buildings. This is a conservative estimate because it only includes health impacts from outdoor PM 2.5 and precursor pollution; it also does not include pollution from upstream extraction. In light of the many studies that have shown that BIPOC and low income communities are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and the resulting health effects, continuing to allow building to burn fossil fuels is not only a climate justice issue, but one of racial and economic justice as well.

The proposed code updates ensure that, as we continue to construct large new buildings, we are doing so in a manner that is equitable and sustainable and in line with the climate commitments made by the Governor and our legislature. Washington has always been seen as a climate leader -- these code changes are a clear way to act on our commitments and transition away from fossil fuel use in new buildings, increase energy efficiency, and bring more rooftop solar online. After years of back to back climate chaos in Washington State, from historic wildfires to unprecedented heat waves, it is clear that it is time for decision makers at all levels of government to act to reduce emissions, and create a just transition off of fossil fuels. These proposals have gone through thousands of hours of review and have been vetted over the last year with those in the building and design industry. I ask that you send the full package of proposals out to public comment.

Thank you for your consideration and your work on behalf of the state.

Dylan Plummer