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Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:28 PM
To: DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>
Subject: The Vision for a Healthy, Clean, Climate-Friendly Future is Electric!

External Email

Written testimony for the SBCC Public Hearing on 2/25/2022

Greetings State Building Code Council Members,

I am submitting this testimony as a parent and a teacher who is deeply concerned about the future of the young children in my care. Will they have a livable climate? The IPCC SR1.5 report has made it clear, by the time our kids are old enough to vote, their futures will largely be decided for them - by what we do now!

The solutions are also clear, we need to electrify, electrify, electrify! Climate-friendly (greenhouse/fossil-gas reducing) energy codes are how we will realize our vision for a better future and bring it to fruition.

I urge you to approve the proposed updates to the Washington State commercial energy code requiring that new commercial buildings be built with clean electric heat pumps and heat pump water heaters instead of dangerous and polluting gas appliances.

After years of back to back climate chaos in Washington State, from devastating floods to historic wildfires to unprecedented heat waves, it is clear that decision-makers at all levels of government must act to reduce emissions, and create a just transition off of fossil fuels. Buildings are also the primary cause of pollution-related deaths in Washington state due to their contributions to air pollution.

A recent Harvard study showed that in Washington, burning fossil fuels in commercial buildings was responsible for over \$110 million in health impacts from outdoor air pollution in 2017 alone. Another study found that children in homes with gas stoves have a 42% higher risk of developing asthmatic symptoms. We know that BIPOC and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and the resulting health effects, so continuing to allow new buildings 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 is 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.

These proposals have been vetted over the last year by building and design industry professionals. I ask that you please move forward with the full package of amendments, including the heat pump space heating and water heating amendments.

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

Sincerely,
Devon Kellogg and Family