Chair Tony Doan  
Washington State Building Code Council  
1500 Jefferson St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Chair Doan and Members of the State Building Code Council:

We, the undersigned architects, designers, and building industry professionals operating in Washington, write to strongly urge you to move the full package of residential energy code proposals recently approved by the TAG forward to public comment. These proposals have been thoroughly vetted by the SBCC’s Technical Advisory Group and deserve a deliberative public comment period.

Sustainable Buildings for a Zero-Emissions Future  
Buildings represent approximately one quarter of Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions, and the state has targets to significantly reduce this climate pollution. To achieve these ambitious climate targets and protect residents, we must utilize the best building techniques and technologies, including but not limited to heat pumps for water and space heating. The proposals submitted are critical to ensure the residential energy code delivers on the state’s goal of zero carbon new buildings by 2031.

A Signal for Market Transformation  
It is time to signal to the market that we need to move away from fossil fuels in our homes. In our professional practices we have found that building all-electric new homes is a robust and market-ready solution. Prolonging the use of gas in new homes is hard to justify when there are better, cleaner options available now, including those suitable for very cold climates, which take advantage of Washington’s increasingly clean electrical grid, and which have the added benefit of also providing air
conditioning. Buildings are long lived assets and using best practices from the start should be the standard for our industry.

The technology to build high-performance all-electric homes already exists in the market today and innovation is driving more advanced products. A robust energy code will help spur innovation even further and ensure that manufacturers are meeting the challenges the market demands.

Thank you for your efforts to advance a building energy code that supports a healthy and resilient future for all.

Sincerely,

Steven Forrester, Principal, DMA Engineering
Helen Harrison, Vice President of Board, NW EcoBuilding Guild
Allan Farkas, Architect, Eggleston|Farkas Architects
Patricia Heye, Architect, EHDD
Sloan Ritchie, President, Cascade Built
Geoff Anderson, Principal, Schemata Workshop
Joseph Becker, Managing partner, ShelterWorks
Chris Hellstern, Living Building Challenge Services Director, The Miller Hull Partnership
Albert Rooks, Founder & CEO, Small Planet Supply
Daniel A Welch, Owner, [bundle] design studio
Carrie Anderson, Architect, NEST design build
Tadashi Shiga, Principal, Evergreen Certified LLC
Andrew Grant Houston, AIA, AIA
R. Court Olson, Principal, Optimum Building Consultants
Dylan Glosecki, Architect, VIA-A Perkins Eastman Studio
Helen Harrison, Principal, Balderston Associates
Michael McAuley, Principal Designer, McAuley Design Works