

Dear Members of the Building Code Council,

I am writing in opposition to residential energy code proposals 21-GP2-065: Heat Pump Space Heating and 21-GP2-066: Heat Pump Water Heating. These proposals will seriously harm my business and my employees. These proposals ignore consumer cost and consumer choice. These proposed changes would require massive wholesale change in aspects of energy markets. It is unclear if much of this change is economically feasible to end users who would be required to pay for such investments.

These proposals essentially say my business has no place in Washington's future. The State Building Code Council should not be in the business of putting certain businesses out of business. We provide good paying jobs to many Washingtonians and are a critical part of our local community.

Washington has a housing crisis and these proposals will make it harder for customers to afford the purchase of a new home or makes changes to their existing home.

Gas provides warmth to over 1.2 million residences in Washington state. Moving all those residences and all newly built homes to electricity will increase demand for electricity with no statewide plan for building more transmission lines. An increase in demand for electricity also requires a robust lineman workforce, which is currently struggling to recruit workers. Once recruited, the required training takes years to complete.

At present, electricity is affordable in Washington. But adding new generating capacity is expensive and will drive power rates higher. Amid inflationary pressures, Washingtonians cannot afford higher utility costs.

Propane is a clean burning fuel and is part of the solution in mitigating climate change, not the problem. Please protect everyday Washingtonians -- my business, employees and customers -- and reject these proposals.

Thank you for your consideration.