



To: Washington State Building Code Council  
Attention: Doug Orth, Council Chair

From: John Waterstraat  
Fireside Home Solutions, President and Owner  
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Email: [johnw@firesidehomesolutions.com](mailto:johnw@firesidehomesolutions.com)

Re: Public Comment on Proposed Amendments R402.4.2.1 and R403.1.3

Date: September 26, 2019

We are a family-owned fireplace installing-distributor and retailer with operations in Puget Sound, including showrooms in Puyallup, Kent, Bellevue and Woodinville. 70% of our business is in the new construction market installing fireplaces for home builders from Bellingham to Olympia, while the remaining 30% is installing fireplaces for our retail and remodeling clients. Over the last 30 years we have grown from 5 employees to over 190 people currently employed.

I am writing on behalf of Fireside Home Solutions to testify in opposition to the above noted code amendments.

First, this proposal to amend the building code has not reviewed the economic impact it will have to businesses like mine. We are at risk of losing nearly half of the products available through our largest manufacturer alone. The results of this change in code will put jobs at risk in our company and drastically affect the revenue that we put back into the Washington economy—*which is over \$40,000,000 per year.*

Secondly, the building code is not an appropriate way to regulate these appliances due to the complexity surrounding the manufacturing of the appliance, how they function, and the economic impacts of increased regulation. These decisions should be made either through legislation or a regulatory function that involves manufacturers at a national level.

I want the manufacturers' best and brightest engineers to be invited to the table so that we together can find a way to make fireplaces cleaner than ever. Approaching things from this perspective would make a much bigger impact and help us pursue cleaner energy together.

I urge the Code Council to deny the code amendments. The economic impact would be catastrophic for our business and could result in the loss of nearly 100 jobs in our company alone.

If you feel further information is necessary, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this matter.

John Waterstraat  
President, Owner

Fireside Home Solutions

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