

**From:** Elyette Weinstein <elyette\_w@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 22, 2019 8:44 PM  
**To:** DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Adopt the Proposed Revisions to the Washington State Residential Energy Code

Dear Chair Orth and Washington State Building Code Council:

I am a retired attorney who worked for the State of Washington for almost 25 years. During the 2019 Legislative Session, I attended hearings regarding proposed legislation that would improve the energy efficiency of new buildings in our state. I heartily support the proposed revisions to the 2018 Washington State Residential Energy Code (Code) and urge the Building Code Council to adopt them.

This month, the non-profit American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy published a report which showed that new homes could cut emissions by 70% with energy efficient design and use of cleaner electricity. Existing homes and buildings could slash emissions with energy-efficient upgrades, smart control technologies, and electrification of heating and cooling.

This report underscores the effectiveness of energy efficient buildings as a tool to cut carbon emissions in our state. One of the most effective ways to ensure that Washington buildings are as efficient as possible is through strong and innovative energy codes.

For example, one Code revision proposal accounts for carbon in the Code's options table. This proposal is an important step toward decarbonizing residential new construction in Washington state. As electricity becomes cleaner, the options table credits for high efficiency electric measures will increase, providing greater incentive to cut carbon emissions. (*Proposal 36*)

Furthermore, Washington law now mandates that new buildings be 70% more energy efficient by 2031 than they were in 2006. The proposed Code revisions keep the state and its new residential construction on a path to reach that goal.

In addition, more efficient buildings are more comfortable for tenants. Energy efficiency also adds to home value and lowers resident utility bills.

Thank you for considering my comments. I hope that the Council will support the proposed Code revisions. They contribute toward protecting the health of Washington's residents by providing a clean environment.

Sincerely,

Elyette M. Weinstein