



June 22, 2019

State Building Code Council

Attn: Chair Diane Glenn & SBCC Members

RE: 2018 ICC Code Implementation

Honorable members of the State Building Code Council:

It has come to our attention that there are efforts being made to further extend the implementation date of the adoption of the Washington State amended 2018 Buildings Codes.

We do not support this effort.

The 2018 codes have been through a thorough process for amendments and revisions. Public hearings were held, and the Council has approved the language. That has happened over the past few years, with inclusion of contractors, code enforcers, and manufacturing. It is understood that a delay from the July 1, 2020 implementation date was needed to address the ability of the construction industry to learn about the new codes and their effects. Like other Associations and code training groups, WSAFM has conducted the 2018 Fire Code updates virtually. Seven training classes were presented, and another is planned early in the fall before the November 1 implementation date.

To keep pushing the date back creates uncertainty within the construction industry. Designers are now in the process of creating construction documents based on the current delayed implementation date. It becomes a hardship for the designers to know which code to design to if they don't know when it will actually take effect.

The May 19, 2020 letter from Governor Inslee opposing pushing back the adoption date of the 2018 codes provides a solid argument for maintaining the current projected date. In summary, moving the adoption date to November 1st allows for sufficient time to adapt and prepare for the new codes.

The building code process in Washington State has been successful in minimizing economic impact without sacrificing life safety. The Code cycle should not be further delayed in the implementation of the 2018 Codes, as well as the development of the next codes to be adopted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David F. Kokot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David F. Kokot, P.E.

President

Washington State Association of Fire Marshals