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June 15, 2022

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

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