

## **SUPPORT ELECTRIFICATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN BUILDINGS**

**WHEREAS** Greenhouse gas emissions in Washington State have been on the rise since 2010 <sup>1</sup>; and buildings in Washington State contribute to both indoor and outdoor air pollution due to the use of fossil fuel appliances including but not limited to: heating/cooling, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying; and

**WHEREAS** Energy use in new and remodeled buildings is governed by the Washington State Energy Code (revised every three years, barring extensions) wherein the Residential Energy Code regulates single-family homes and townhomes, and the Commercial Energy Code regulates all buildings not covered under "Residential" <sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** In 2022 after 2 years of deliberations and public hearings, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) (RCW 19.27.070) <sup>3</sup>consisting of (15) voting members and (5) ex-officio non-voting members, appointed by the governor, adopted revisions to the Commercial and Residential Energy Codes which are scheduled to take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Revisions include key provisions to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution; and

**WHEREAS** the revisions to the Washington State Energy Code adopted in 2022 will require a transition from fossil fuel reliant appliances and systems to renewable and electric powered systems and appliances such as electric heat pumps for heating and cooling as well as heat pump hot water heaters, improved electrical distribution and metering, energy efficiency in construction, improved ventilation for cooking, and electric-ready transition circuitry where gas appliances are included in new homes; and

**WHEREAS** electric heat pumps that deliver safe and energy efficient heating, cooling, and air filtration are needed now more than ever due to fires resulting from hotter and more polluted summer months, disproportionality harming vulnerable populations such as children and elders,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 46<sup>th</sup> legislative district (LD) of the Washington State Democratic Party supports implementing the State Building Code Council's 2022 revisions to the Washington State Building and Energy Codes effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, and opposes legislation aimed at diminishing, repealing or delaying their implementation and opposes legislation aimed at thwarting the State Building Code Council's comprehensive code review and revision processes <sup>4</sup>; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that members of 46<sup>th</sup> LD of the Washington State Democratic Party are encouraged to support petitions, testimony, resolutions, legislation, memorandums, calls for action, and/or sign-on letters in support of implementing the State Building Code Council's 2022 code revisions aimed at electrification and energy efficiency improvements of buildings and maintaining the viability of the State Building Code Council;

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be forwarded to the Washington State Representatives and Senator from the 46<sup>th</sup> LD of the Washington State Democrats

## References:

1. Washington State GHG emissions inventory 1990 - 2019  
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2202054.pdf>
2. Washington State Energy Code – State Building Code Council; <https://www.sbcc.wa.gov/state-codes-regulations-guidelines/state-building-code/energy-code>
3. Building Code Council:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=19.27.070>  
(20 persons in total) RCW 19.07.070: **[15]** at least six of these 15 must reside east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains in Washington: (2) county & (2) city elected officials, (1) code enforcement official, (1) fire service official, (1) disabled person, (1) general public person, (1) commercial & industrial construction representative (1) residential & multifamily construction representative, (1) architect, (1) structural engineer, (1) mechanical engineer, (1) construction trade representative, (1) manufacturers, installers, or suppliers representative. **[5]** as ex officio, non voting members with all other privileges and rights of membership: (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, one from each caucus, (2) members of the Senate appointed by the president of the senate, one from each caucus, (1) employee of the electrical division of the Department of Labor and Industries.
4. As of 2.3.2023 support [HB1770 – SB5669](#) which support the new building codes; bills to oppose: [HB1404](#) and [SB5117](#) —gutting state Building codes council  
[HB1193](#) – prevents the SBCC from considering GHG emissions as a factor in code adoption, and prevents the restriction of natural gas or natural gas appliances in residential construction  
[SB5057](#)—delays new building codes

Bills intent on altering the State Building Code Council and code adoption procedures.  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/bills/BillNumber=1770&Initiative=false&Year=2021>  
2023: HB1193.

**Submitted to the 46<sup>th</sup> LD :** for consideration at 2023 02 15 general meeting.  
**Submitted by:** Arvia Morris [morris358@zipcon.com](mailto:morris358@zipcon.com)

**Passed by the Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington State Democrats:** at its general meeting 2023 01 27