



AIA
Seattle

December 21, 2020

Gordon Clowers
Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections
Via Email: gordon.clowers@seattle.gov

Re: SEPA DNS 2018 Seattle Commercial Energy Code

Dear Mr. Clowers:

AIA Seattle represents 2,500 architects in the Puget Sound region, and we work to champion the central role of architects in creating and sustaining a better built environment. Our members are deeply familiar with state and local building codes and have a technical understanding of how code changes drive sustainability.

AIA Seattle

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Thank you for your work on the SEPA DNS for the Commercial Energy Code. AIA Seattle supports SDCI's determination that there are no probable significant adverse environmental impacts as a result of the code update. In fact, the update has significant positive environmental impacts due to the increased energy efficiencies and reduced use of fossil fuels that will be driven by the new code. By far, the worse environmental impact would be to fail to move forward with this update. Because the buildings we build today will last for decades, we need to build to higher standards now. Not doing so will mean that unnecessary energy waste, carbon emissions, and air pollution resulting from combustion are "locked in" to new buildings.

Importantly, the positive impacts of this stronger code include helping to prioritize human health. By reducing fossil fuel use and emissions, we can reduce dangerous air pollution both indoors and out. This code will help to address equity issues in health by enacting consistent improvements for all buildings.

Architects are already designing buildings to comply with the 2018 Energy Code, and it is clear that the code can be accomplished with today's technology. Seattle's codes lead the nation in combating climate change precisely because they demand improvements on a regular schedule, across all commercial buildings, and are designed to meet the climate-related mandates set forth by the legislative and executive branches.

Architects know that progressive codes, particularly energy codes, are the single most important factor in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change from the buildings sector. We urge the city to accept the SEPA determination and move forward towards approval of this code update without further delay.

Respectfully,

Brendan Connolly, AIA
President

Lisa Richmond
Executive Director