



L.I.G.H.T. FOUNDATION

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Leadership  Indigenous  Guardian  Honor  Teach 

Date: 3/10/2022

ATTN: [Members of the Washington State Building Code Council](#) (SBCC)

Sent via email to: sbcc@des.wa.gov

RE: Proposed Updates to the WA State Commercial Energy Code

Dear SBCC Members,

The L.I.G.H.T. Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Indigenous-led conservation, education, and research nonprofit incorporated in Washington State. We are adamant about supporting climate action which addresses justice, equity, and improves the health and well-being of all peoples.

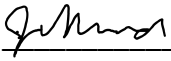
Unfortunately, the United States is currently far behind climate adaptation and mitigation actions, and our communities are in desperate need of transitioning our energy system beyond fossil fuels. Additionally, we need to ensure that the cradle-to-grave extraction, production, distribution, and implementation of the new clean energy sector occurs in accordance with respect and good faith in negotiation with Indigenous peoples.

We support the proposed updates to the Washington State Commercial Energy Code which require that new commercial buildings be constructed with clean electric heat pumps and heat pump water heaters instead of dangerous and polluting gas appliances. Furthermore, we are encouraging you to require that the landscaping of all new commercial buildings incorporate only those plants native to the ecoregion of each said facility, with an emphasis on:

1. Diverse species supporting pollinator and wildlife habitat – instead of using non-native, invasive, exotic, or species or monoculture landscapes. These efforts will help support fragile species who are adversely impacted by climate change and in need of refugia.
2. Identifying and incorporating, through culturally appropriate consultation, the important edible, medicinal, and fiber plant species of State- or Federally-recognized Indian Tribe/s whose home territory the facility is located in. Agreements must be made to ensure Tribal citizen access to each facilities' landscape for culturally appropriate harvest. This will help support the Tribal citizens who may be food insecure and lack access to harvesting the plant species of their cultural heritage.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. We appreciate your consideration and your work on behalf of the State.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Marchand", is positioned above a solid horizontal line that extends to the right.

Joaquin Marchand
Executive Director
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