



Washington State Senate

June 13, 2013

C. Ray Allhouse, Chairman
Washington State Building Code Council
1500 Jefferson Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98504-1449

Dear Chairman Allhouse,

We formally request an addition to Friday's agenda to initiate emergency and permanent rule-making to move Okanogan, Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties from the climate zone designation 6B to 5B in order to avoid a disproportionate negative impact on small businesses in these counties. Under the Regulatory Fairness Act, the Council is authorized to take action on state rules having a disproportionate impact on small businesses.

These counties are within the climate zone designation 5B (same as Spokane and Chelan). In the update effective July 1, 2013, the new 6B designation will bring a different set of standards.

Citizens in the four counties petitioned us for relief. These small counties rely on experts, educational courses, and supplies from within the pre-existing 5B zone for their employees. Obtaining new materials will require unanticipated costs and special ordering, as some materials are not available within the new designated area. We are also concerned with feedback that migrating from zone 5B to 6B will have a negative impact on small businesses. It appears the Small Business Impact Statement did not address the designation change's impact on this area; and, consequently, the Council may not have known of the impact.

Thank you for your due consideration of our request to add this item to Friday's agenda and to initiate emergency and permanent rulemaking that would keep Okanogan, Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties in climate zone 5B.

We would also appreciate a report on the action(s) the Council takes regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Don Butler

J. J.

Mike Holt

Barbara Bailey

Mike Sadler

Jim Hayward
