

City of
Bellevue



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April 14, 2014

Tim Nogler
State Building Code Council
1500 Jefferson Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98504
via email: tim.nogler@des.wa.gov

To Members of the State Building Code Council,

I am writing to express the City of Bellevue's support for the proposed amendments to the Washington State Building Code submitted by Northwest SEED and WSU Energy Program that would exempt certain rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems from requiring a building permit. Regardless of the exemption for a building permit, the installation would still be required to adhere to all applicable building codes. An electrical permit is required for all PV installations independent of whether or not a building permit is needed for the installation.

The City of Bellevue has utilized similar building permit exemption criteria since July 1, 2013. The streamlined process includes a checklist form outlining the parameters for when a system is exempt from a building permit. The thresholds in place most closely resemble the proposal from NWSEED. The exemption thresholds identified in this code change proposal provide an acceptable level of risk while reducing obstacles for our constituents to provide an alternate means of electrical energy for single family homes through the use of PV panels.

This proposal would reduce the permitting time and expense for both solar installation companies and homeowners while ensuring an appropriate level of safety is maintained. By streamlining the permitting process for standard rooftop solar PV systems, we hope to encourage and accelerate utilization of solar energy in our jurisdiction.

We support and encourage full adoption of either of the two proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory H. Schrader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Gregory H. Schrader, PE, SE
Building Official
City of Bellevue DSD
425-452-6451