



April 21, 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 Fire Mountain Solar'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.

Currently, the solar PV market in Washington is challenged by an assortment of permitting processes that vary widely by jurisdiction. The inconsistent permit requirements and unclear processes make it difficult for installers to accurately plan for the cost and time frames required to obtain a permit, particularly when doing business in new jurisdictions. This ultimately leads to unnecessary costs to the customer.

The proposed amendment would significantly reduce the permitting time and expense for solar installation companies by creating a standard, predictable, and consistent process across jurisdictions. The exemption criteria listed in the proposed amendment are consistent with industry best practices and would include the most common types of systems installed. We support and encourage full adoption of either of the two proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Tim Nelson

Tim Nelson
CEO

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