



2024 WABO Legislative Positions

- **Funding for State Building Code Council:** The Washington State Building Code Council (SBCC) is mandated by state law to develop the construction codes used in Washington and that effort requires adequate funding to accomplish their mission. WABO supports continued adequate funding, the ability to readily access funding, and clarification for consistent fee application by local jurisdictions.
- **Protect Local Authority:** WABO supports protecting local authority to amend, adopt and administer construction codes.
- **Code Cycle:** WABO supports keeping Washington consistent with the national model code adoption cycle.
- **Consumer Protection:** WABO supports measures to protect the public from unqualified and illegal contractors, such as requiring contractor training and education, and establishing minimum qualification standards for contractors and Building Officials.
- **Electrical Code:** WABO supports legislation that provides jurisdictions with equal authority to develop and adopt the Washington State Electrical Code.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** WABO recognizes that jurisdictions have limited fiscal capacity and opposes unfunded and under-funded mandates.
- **Seismic Resilience:** WABO supports legislation to assist building owners in retrofitting existing seismically vulnerable buildings, and to promote research on codes that support community recovery from seismic events. Focus in these areas may reduce the impact of seismic events by promoting economic resiliency and functional recovery of our communities.
- **Certification and Training:** WABO supports improving the efficiency of the construction permit and inspection process with training and certification for code officials and code technicians.
- **Energy Code Compliance.** WABO supports legislation that promotes resource allocation for effectively achieving substantial compliance via plan review and inspections of the WA State Energy code.
- **Increase in Housing Supply:** WABO understands the statewide need to increase all housing types and urges lawmakers to ensure housing continues to comply with the state building code council adopted codes to ensure a safe built environment.
- **Building Permit Efficiency:** WABO urges the legislature to consider the significant role that building permits play in ensuring health and safety in the built environment. All permitting efficiency efforts intending to speed up the permit process also need to be viewed in the lens of the essential purpose of the permit itself: ensuring substantial compliance with the applicable laws in effect at the time of permit application.
- **Code language in RCW:** WABO recognizes that the role of the legislature is to set policy direction, however requests that all new code development is tasked to the appropriate state agency, such as SBCC, and is funded appropriately.
- **Volunteer Organizations for Disaster Response:** WABO supports legislation that increases State support for emergency response/recovery volunteer programs (e.g., WAsafe – Building Safety Evaluations), or promotes those types of programs.