



## *Proclamation*

### **Building Safety Month — May 2023**

Whereas, our State is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and essential role our homes, buildings and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disaster strikes, and;

Whereas, our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

Whereas, these guardians are dedicated members of the Washington Association of Building Officials and International Code Council, nonprofit organizations that bring together local, state, territorial, tribal and federal officials who are experts in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work, play, and;

Whereas we join in support of this effort in association with the Washington Association of Building Officials and local chapters throughout the state; representing the State of Washington in national and local matter of public safety;

Whereas, these modern building codes include safeguards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

Whereas, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the Washington Association of Building Officials and International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, sustainable and affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity, and;

Whereas, “It Starts With You,” the theme for Building Safety Month 2023, encourages us all to raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local and global scale, and;

Whereas, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Higgins, President of the Washington Association of Building Officials, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

Andy Higgins, President  
Washington Association of Building Officials