



Senator Reuven Carlyle, Chair  
Senate Energy, Environment,  
and Technology Committee  
213 John A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0436

January 23, 2018

Dear Chairman Carlyle,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to SB 6203. As designers of the built environment, the architect members of the American Institute of Architects Washington Council are particularly interested in decreasing carbon emissions from buildings. We recognize that:

**The American Institute of Architects**

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- We are not decarbonizing new and existing buildings fast enough today to limit global warming to “well below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels” as outlined in the Paris climate accord.
- The existing, disparate array of green building approaches and certifications can be confusing to policymakers, particularly when assessing how to reduce carbon emissions from buildings most effectively.
- We have cost-effective means available today to move buildings from being part of the climate problem to being part of the climate solution. Given the right public investments, buildings that meet our 2030 energy reduction targets, both new and retrofit, can scale up and transform the market.
- We support other technologies and proposals that diversify carbon reduction opportunities such as addressing peak loads, educating consumers, developing new low carbon construction techniques, developing new low carbon fuels and incentivizing consumers to choose low carbon alternatives.

Therefore, we recommend a revision of the building-related language under “Energy Transformation Account...Categories of eligible projects include,” to read:

*The design and construction of new and retrofitted highly energy efficient buildings. These buildings first use good design, assisted by energy modeling during the design process, to significantly decrease their reliance on greenhouse gases to meet Architecture 2030 energy reduction targets. Carbon loads that cannot be mitigated during design may utilize onsite renewable energy generation, procure off-site renewable energy that is additional, local, equitable, and legally assigned to the building, or some combination of methods that achieves significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions over code minimums.*

AIA Washington Council supports legislation that aims to meet the emissions targets as set by Architecture 2030 and is agnostic towards what green building approach or certification is used. Importantly, we would like funding to be available in the early planning stages of a project so that the most integrative design approach can be utilized at the outset of the design phase.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 6203. Should you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Hamlett, executive director, at 425-314-3847.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Cork', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mark Cork  
President, AIA Washington Council