

Kirsten Smith – SB 6203

Testimony before the Senate Energy, Environment & Technology Committee

January 16, 2018

My name is Kirsten Smith and I represent the American Institute of Architects in Washington. I am here to speak in support of SB 6203.

Washington Architects are committed to solving the climate crisis. Our members have adopted the 2030 Challenge, which seeks to achieve carbon neutrality in all new buildings by the year 2030. We have the skills and the technology to achieve that goal, but without the right price signals and investments, our clients don't have the market incentive to invest in deep energy efficiencies. Putting a price on carbon is the most effective strategy our state can take to transform our building sector.

AIA is strongly in favor of the Energy Transformation Account section of this bill, which would provide funds for energy efficiency and electrification retrofits of existing buildings.

Architects are interested in making sure that a meaningful portion of any revenue or fees collected be used for funding exactly these types of building energy efficiencies. Without these investments, we will simply not be able to hit our greenhouse gas reduction targets. We believe the funding should be technology agnostic and should be allocated proportionally according to each strategy's impact on the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

This emphasis on energy efficiency projects creates demand for architects' skills, and architects are very well positioned to champion cost-effective energy efficiency improvements for both new and existing buildings. Dollars dedicated to efficiencies are key to attracting matching funds and overcoming upfront cost barriers.

Finally, energy efficiency investments will encourage the development of local green businesses that serve architects and others. By harnessing the economic power of the private sector, accounting for the cost of carbon, and making green capital available, we can stimulate

innovation and production of materials and technologies that architects need to design and construct better buildings.