



February 28, 2019

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Honorable Representative Timm Ormsby, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
222A John L. O'Brien, P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: SHB 1257 – Clean Buildings for Washington Act

Dear Chair Ormsby and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance in Washington State, I am pleased to submit this letter expressing our support for the Clean Buildings for Washington Act.

The BlueGreen Alliance is a coalition of labor, environmental, and community organizations across the state of Washington that works to find ways to address our environmental challenges while creating and supporting good jobs. **Our coalition has endorsed Substitute HB 1257 because we believe it helps promote our shared priorities to create a clean and fair economy.** The suite of provisions in the bill are important to our members because they will lead to a significant reduction of carbon emissions from buildings in Washington State, and the process required to meet these standards for cleaner, more efficient buildings will in turn stimulate a substantial amount of family-sustaining jobs in our region.

In particular, we are in strong support of the provisions of the bill related to energy efficiency targets in large commercial buildings and electric vehicle readiness in new buildings. Deep building retrofits are a highly impactful, cost-effective way to reduce emissions, and these retrofits also generate more jobs than comparable investments in other clean energy sectors.¹ Since eligible buildings will need to meet specified efficiency targets and outcomes will be reported to the state, this will incentivize the use of a well-trained workforce which has been shown to improve energy efficiency outcomes. It is important to

¹ Investments in building efficiency in Washington State will generate 1.5-2 times as many jobs per million dollars invested compared to investments in wind and solar. Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, *A Green New Deal for Washington State: Climate Stabilization, Good Jobs, and a Just Transition*. Available online: <https://www.peri.umass.edu/publication/item/1033-a-green-new-deal-for-washington-state>

our members that climate policies support the creation of good, family sustaining jobs and promote training and career pathways for all workers impacted by a policy, and we see this bill as likely to support these outcomes.

We appreciate the work of the bill's sponsors as well as the Governor's office in crafting this bill, and support the whole package of provisions that are included. We hope you will pass it out of committee, and look forward to working collaboratively towards its passage this year.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if the BlueGreen Alliance can be of assistance. We appreciate the opportunity to share these thoughts in writing on this important bill.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Stephanie Celt
Washington State Policy Coordinator
BlueGreen Alliance

Signed by Washington State BlueGreen
Alliance Executive Committee members:



Larry Brown, co-chair and
President, Washington State Labor Council,
AFL-CIO



Robin Everett, co-chair and
Organizing Manager, Sierra Club
Washington State Chapter



Steve Garey
President (retired), United Steelworkers
Local 12-591



Vlad Gutman-Britten
Washington State Director, Climate
Solutions



Neil Hartman
Legislative and Political Director,
Washington State Building and Construction
Trades Council



Becky Kelley
President, Washington Environmental
Council



JB Tengco
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