



“Leading the way to excellence in building and life safety.”

Washington Association of Building Officials 2010 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Accessibility: WABO supports legislation to meet the needs of citizens by removing barriers in multi-family housing and supports the State Building Code Council and other organizations to help link those in need of accessible apartment dwellings with accessible units in their inventory.

Aging-in-place: WABO supports legislation and changes to the building codes that encourages development of housing that includes incentives that encourages accessibility to provide aging in place.

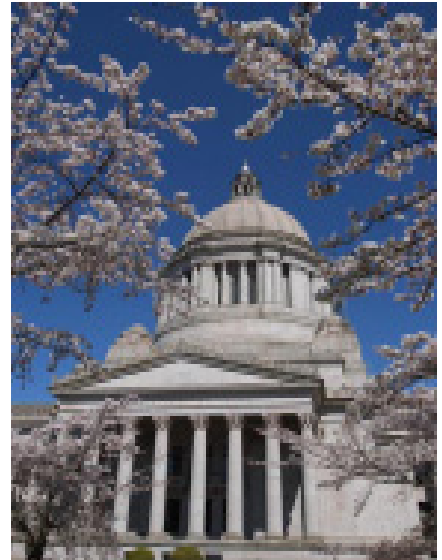
Apprenticeship Program for Building Inspectors: WABO supports the adoption of an apprenticeship program for building inspectors in order to provide on-the-job training as well as college classes for people who want to enter the profession. This will also assist jurisdictions in their hiring of qualified individuals.

Code Enforcement: WABO supports legislation that provides additional tools to local government to effectively administer and enforce building, fire, plumbing, mechanical, zoning, and other construction codes that are necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

Competency of Building Industry Professionals: WABO supports improving the competency of all building industry professionals and will work with stakeholders to reach an acceptable level of proficiency for those in the construction fields.

Electrical Code: WABO supports legislation that gives cities and counties a role in the development of the Washington State Electrical Code and allow cities and counties to enforce electrical codes.

Emergency Management: WABO supports legislation to add building department personnel to the list of emergency responders authorized to participate in the Washington intrastate emergency management system, along with firefighters, police and public works. WABO supports legislation to encourage the public and businesses to take steps to better prepare for emergencies.



Energy Conservation and Interior Environment of Buildings: WABO encourages public education toward the movement of building “green” and the continued improvement in energy conservation and building health. We support suggestions to increase these requirements be referred to the State Building Code Council to address in their technical arena.

Nuisance Abatement Cost Recovery: WABO supports efforts to streamline cost recovery efforts of Washington counties to recover nuisance abatement costs in a manner consistent with what is currently available to Washington cities.

Plumbing Code Issues: WABO supports the statutory requirement of the State Building Code Council having jurisdiction over the adoption and amendments of the State Plumbing Code. Further, WABO supports an integrated family of codes, all of which are coordinated with each other to allow for ease in design and installation of plumbing systems.

Registered Design Professional Licensing: WABO remains neutral regarding licensing for engineers, architects, and designers, as our members must work cooperatively with all groups.

Schools, Non-licensed Healthcare Structures, Water Protection: WABO encourages increased partnerships between the various State and Federal agencies regarding building construction-related rules. WABO also encourages these issues be referred to the State Building Code Council and the elimination of such rules from other agencies to the extent that they impact new construction or substantial renovation.

Unfunded Mandates: WABO recognizes that jurisdictions have limited fiscal capacity and opposes unfunded and under-funded mandates.

