



**Washington Association of
Building Officials**

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WABO
PO Box 7310
Olympia, WA 98507-7310
(360) 628-8669
Toll Free (888) 664-9515
Fax (360) 918-8021
wabo@wabo.org
www.wabo.org

Administered By
J Addison Group, LLC
(Olympia, Washington)

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Dear Local Leader:

On behalf of the members of the Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO), I am writing to ask you to support your building official by encouraging their attendance at the next WABO meeting in Chelan on October 17-18, 2013. Your community should be assured that all construction projects meet the important life/safety requirements in the codes adopted by the State Building Code Council. The number one job of your building official is to provide that assurance and attendance at our statewide meeting will help them become a more knowledgeable and effective code administrator.

If you are not familiar with what we do, here are some examples:

Certifications and Training. WABO has developed the “**Accredited Code Official**” program to recognize building officials who are highly qualified to perform their duties. WABO is the prime sponsor of a state and federally recognized apprenticeship program to provide training for your future employees. We also sponsor annual code training to benefit your entire building department staff.

Developing the Codes. Because they have considerable expertise in enforcing the codes, WABO members are active participants in the code **development process** that result in the national building codes as well as the State of Washington codes derived from them.

Legislation. The Washington State Legislature introduces many bills that affect your building department. A WABO subcommittee reviews the bills and establishes positions on them that best **protect public safety**, retain local control, and guard against negative impacts to your community.

Emergency Management. In the event of a disaster such as an earthquake or flood, code officials will be called on to quickly evaluate the safety of buildings to help in your community’s rapid recovery. WABO established the **Building Safety Emergency Responder Program**, which offers a list of qualified officials who can respond to disasters wherever there is a need in the State.

I believe your jurisdiction will be best served by having your building official equipped to address the ever-changing world of codes for optimal building safety. At our meeting in Chelan, they will have the opportunity to participate in many of the WABO programs mentioned above, as well as attend training for their professional development. Most importantly, the meeting provides them with the opportunity to discuss common problems with their peers and develop common solutions, which leads to more consistency across the state in how the codes are administered.

If your building official has not attended a WABO meeting within the last year or has never attended one of our meetings, WABO will cover their registration and lodging expenses for up to two nights. Check us out at our website, www.wabo.org for more information or call the WABO office at 360-628-8669.

I urge you to support your building official in becoming involved in Washington’s statewide building official organization. If there are any questions I can answer or any assistance that I can provide, please feel free to contact me at 206-973-4762 or tjustice@ci.seatac.wa.us.

Sincerely,

Trace Justice, ACO, CBO
WABO President