

Building Industry Association of Washington

April 30, 2019

Charles Gilman, Water Quality Program
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Attention: Amending Water Quality Permit Fees

The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Ecology's rulemaking on the amendment to Chapter 173-224 WAC, Water Quality Permit Fees. BIAW represents over nearly 8,000 Washington businesses engaged in all aspects of home construction and is the champion of affordable housing in Washington State. BIAW is dedicated to ensuring and enhancing the vitality of the building industry so members can meet the housing needs of Washington citizens.

A fee pays for a product or service. For the fees relating to residential construction and stormwater, or any fee increase, in general, there should be a measurable improvement to the product or service that is being provided. With the economy being the strongest it has been in over a decade increased fees every two years just doesn't make sense. We are in the midst of an affordable housing crisis and raising fees will be passed onto home buyers. How can homes be more affordable if government agencies are taking every opportunity to make it more expensive? BIAW opposes the fee increases in WAC Chapter 173-224.

Sincerely,

Josie Cummings
Regulatory and Government Affairs Manager
Building Industry Association of Washington