

Submitter: Karen Harrington
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1518

February 6, 2022

Testimony in support of passage of the Reach Code Bill, SB 1518.

Chair Lieber and members of the Committee on Energy and Environment,

I write to you as the Interim Chair of the Legislative Task Force of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter (CRPDX). We strongly encourage the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment to pass SB 1518.

Buildings are the second highest source of climate pollution in Oregon and with the rapid growth of new construction (accounting for 25 – 30% of building stock by 2050), this bill will have a significant impact on emissions from these new buildings. Cities want to move faster on climate than the state's building codes currently allow. This bill will correct this problem and allow cities to exceed the state's climate goals and it is voluntary. It will allow cities who wish to opt in to establish a 10+% more energy efficient building code. This will save their residents money and help in the fight against escalating climate chaos.

The changing climate has resulted in extreme heat, erratic and dangerous weather events, and increased wildfires, destroying forests, burning homes and businesses, and dramatically increasing air pollution. Climate change is felt by every Oregonian.

The natural beauty of our state reflects a long legacy of protecting our planet and our natural resources. Support of strong environmental policy, such as 100% Clean Energy by 2040, reflects our state's commitment to ensuring that our children and our children's children inherit a world that is safe and habitable. We believe climate change is an existential crisis threatening that future. The Legislative Task Force of CRPDX supports policies to affect the rapid adoption of clean and renewable energy sources, protection of our natural environment and the phasing out of fossil fuel sourced energy, all of which contribute to air and water pollution, public health problems, and global warming.

We urge you to support the Reach Code Bill, SB 1518.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington
Interim Chair, Legislative Task Force
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter