

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1518

We are in a climate crisis and I won't bring you down by focusing on the indicators or pointing out just how bad everyone's lives will become if we do not take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Rather, let's focus on solutions. Our houses and buildings are the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases and a major source of energy inefficiencies. I urge you to take action by voting YES on SB 1518.

The REACH code ensures houses and buildings are 10% more energy efficient than the current standard. Every BTU and KWh saved by energy efficiency is a savings in some form of energy. This bill only allows Counties and Cities to adopt the REACH code as their standard. It does not create multiple building codes. There will be only two in the State of Oregon. The Base Code, which we can continue to upgrade on the current schedule and the 10% more energy efficient REACH code. We should allow local jurisdictions local control to adopt this higher standard. Building for energy efficiency is less costly than retrofits after construction.

When I moved into my 1925 home it had some R9 insulation in the attic. Over the years I have spent thousands of dollars on upgrades for insulation in the attic and walls, seismic retrofits to secure the home to its foundation, weather stripping to seal air leaks, new double paned windows and custom storm door. It is better and still not as energy efficient as it would be if it were built to the REACH code. If I had to build the same structure now it would cost more than I originally paid for it in 1992 but increased building costs are no reason to improve our energy efficiency which reduces the operating costs.

Please vote yes on SB 1518 and allow counties and cities to build for efficiency.