



February 7, 2022

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lieber and Members of the Committee:

The League of Oregon Cities supports SB 1518. Many local jurisdictions are taking actions to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These actions are usually described in climate action plans or combined with sustainability plans. Climate action plans typically include: an inventory of all GHG emissions by major source or sector (such as transportation, electrical generation, buildings, etc.); goals expressed as a percentage reduction in GHG emissions compared to a baseline year; and a portfolio of strategies to achieve these goals.

Buildings are the second largest source of GHG emissions in Oregon after the transportation sector. SB 1518 would add another tool to cities toolkits to address one of the largest sources of emissions within their jurisdiction. Under current state law, cities are preempted from adopting local building codes. In 2009, legislation was passed to implement a statewide reach code, a new optional code that would allow developers to exceed statewide codes and streamline the construction of energy efficient buildings. While the statewide reach code exists, it is optional for builders and a local government cannot mandate a builder to use it. SB 1518 would allow a city to adopt the statewide reach code within its jurisdiction to promote additional energy efficiency for new structures. Cities may choose to adopt the reach code to meet climate action goals set in their climate action plans. If a city does not wish to adopt the reach code, the statewide base code would remain in place.

The LOC believes that SB 1518 balances local choice and an avenue for GHG emission reductions. We urge your support on SB 1518.

Respectfully,

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