



CITY OF BEND

February 17, 2021

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House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2398

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Smith:

The City of Bend supports House Bill 2398 as an important way of allowing cities and counties to achieve energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Bend adopted climate goal goals to reduce fossil fuel consumption by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050. Achieving these goals will require reducing emissions from all sectors, but the building sector is paramount. Energy use in buildings contributes over half of emissions in Bend at 54%, with 29% and 22% coming from residential and commercial buildings, respectively. Stronger energy efficiency standards in the building code are one of the most powerful tools we have for mitigating and reducing emissions from new construction. This is especially important in Bend, where the extent of new construction we need to support our growth creates an additional challenge for achieving our greenhouse gas reduction goals.

We strongly urge the inclusion of the amendment to include that measurement of energy efficiency savings and related incentives must remain subject to the requirements of the statewide codes if a municipality adopts the Reach Code. Incentives are critical for ensuring we can make progress on our greenhouse gas reduction and housing affordability goals simultaneously.

Allowing municipalities to adopt the Reach Code as the minimum construction standard within their jurisdictions is a common sense measure that helps achieve local climate action goals throughout the state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Russell".

Sally Russell, Mayor and the Bend City Council
City of Bend