



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Jeff Hecksel, County Administrator

601 State Street · Hood River, OR 97031 · (541) 386-3970 · FAX (541) 386-9392

COMMISSIONERS

Michael Oates – Chair
Karen Joplin – District No. 1
Arthur Babitz – District No. 2
Robert Benton – District No. 3
Les Perkins – District No. 4

February 16, 2021

Dear Hood River House and Senate members,

Hood River County would like to express our support for House Bill 2398 allowing counties and cities the option to adopt the state developed Energy Reach Code that exceeds the state energy code.

Buildings are the second largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Oregon after the transportation sector; it is essential that Oregon immediately begin to bend the curve downward in the building sector. Constructing more efficient buildings is the most effective and least cost way to do this. Hood River County and the City of Hood River have a goal of reducing energy use in new construction by 50% by 2030. This goal is not achievable without a state option.

Many residential and commercial developments around the state are already building to net zero energy levels in a cost-effective manner. Building to the Reach Code level will not significantly increase the cost of construction, but it will significantly improve the health and reduce the energy burden of the people living in the homes and buildings while making the building inventory more competitive and attractive long into the future.

This bill provides an important, optional, vetted, consistent and accessible tool for small rural communities like Hood River to achieve greater energy efficiency, while improving quality of life and long-term economic viability.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Oates,
Hood River County Commission Chair