

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Chair Kayse Jama
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 5, 2022

Subject: Opposition to SB 1537

Chair Jama and members of the Committee,

The Electrify Coalition is a group of over 40 organizations that include builders, building engineers, HVAC contractors, solar installers, community organizations, faith-based groups, student groups, community solar project managers and energy focused non-profits. Our coalition is dedicated to promoting clean renewable energy and electrification solutions to improve energy security, reduce energy costs and eliminate energy related carbon emissions in Oregon.

We are writing to strongly urge the Committee to oppose SB 1537. Seemingly brought by industry groups with no community support, this bill is another example of a long trend of anti-regulation legislation intended to constrain state agencies and make it harder to enact new regulations or rules. While we support the purported goal of preventing the displacement of low-income communities, we are not aware of any collaboration or discussion of the proposed legislation with impacted stakeholders (e.g., low-income housing advocates, land use advocates, racial justice advocates, etc.). That should be a first step before legislation of this expansive consequence is considered.

We oppose the substance of this bill for a variety of reasons. As a baseline, the stated purpose of the bill is wholly unnecessary. Cost assessments are already built into agency rulemaking processes. For example, the Building Codes Division regularly assesses the cost impact of any new code advancements. This bill puts a new, burdensome, and ill-defined layer onto that work, and adds unnecessary expense to existing robust processes.

We strongly urge you to oppose SB 1537.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian Stewart
Founder
Electrify Now

Electrify Coalition Members:



Orange Splot LLC

