



Eugene City Manager's Office

February 17, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

The City of Eugene supports HB 2398, increasing energy efficiency standards in Oregon's Reach Code and allowing local jurisdictions to adopt the Reach Code without DCBS Director review or approval.

The City of Eugene passed the Climate Recovery Ordinance in 2014, setting aggressive greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use reduction goals. Those goals include a 7.6 percent annual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, or about a 65 percent reduction in community -wide emissions by 2030. Eugene's community-wide emissions total just over 1 million MT CO₂e each year. Of those emissions, about 32 percent come from our buildings.

In July 2020, Eugene approved its updated Community Climate Action Plan which provides a roadmap for Eugene's climate action over the next 5-10 years. The planning process included extensive community outreach including meeting with more than 60 technical experts, convening an equity panel to highlight key issues for marginalized communities, meetings with students, and more. The Plan outlines multiple approaches that the City and community partners are exploring to reduce emissions, including reductions to emissions from our buildings through energy efficiency improvements.

Energy efficiency improvements are an important component of Eugene's emissions reduction strategy. Systematic improvements to the building code, like those outlined in HB 2398, are particularly important as they allow communities to meaningfully accelerate climate action at scale. HB 2398 aligns with Eugene's climate goals, adjusting the Reach Code to allow for higher energy efficiency standards and also calling for analysis to make sure these adjustments are actually leading to meaningful reductions. Last, HB 2398 allows for local jurisdictions, like Eugene, to lead the way and help move Oregon towards its statewide climate goals.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Submitted electronically.
Chelsea Clinton, Sustainability Manager, City of Eugene