



Testimony on House Bill 2005-A
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

State Representative Tina Kotek
May 6, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 2005-A.

Oregon is fortunate to have a robust and expeditious system for codifying the most current building code standards. In addition to the six individual building code boards, the Legislature adopted House Bill 2950 in 2009 which set up the Construction Industry Energy Board which improves the codification of the latest building code standards relating to energy efficiency by combining the expertise and representation from other existing building codes boards. The Construction Industry Energy Board does not currently include representation from all the existing building codes boards.

Last year, I learned about the value of mechanical insulation to energy efficiency, especially in large industrial buildings. Mechanical insulation is important because properly insulating a building's piping and mechanical systems increases energy efficiency and saves money. A 2011 study from the National Insulation Association on hospitals and schools piqued my interest. The study concluded that, for hospitals, the energy savings for mechanical insulation are estimated to average about 78% of the total site energy usage. In addition the study concluded that proper and timely maintenance of the insulation on these distribution systems is critical.

I'm happy to report that Oregon's building codes reflect the most current standard for mechanical insulation, something other states have not yet achieved. That said, while Oregon may be ahead of many states as it pertains to codifying the most recent standard for mechanical insulation, the Legislature can further improve, and emphasize the importance of, maintenance on existing insulated piping and mechanical systems to increase energy efficiency and thereby save the state money. To that effect, House Bill 2005-A does the following:

- Declares that it is in the best interest of the state to encourage effective mechanical insulation standards and that it would therefore be beneficial for industry members and regulators to collaborate and identify ways to achieve the greatest amount of energy efficiency through mechanical systems, especially in publically financed buildings.
- Adds new members to the Construction Industry Energy Board, two from the State Plumbing Board and two from the Mechanical Board.
- Adds one insulation craftsperson who has experience with heat and frost insulation to the Mechanical Board in place of one building official.

I would very much appreciate your support of this bill today. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.