

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith and members of the committee

From: Jane Stackhouse

Date: February 17, 2021

Re: Testimony in support of HB 2398 Reach Code building codes.

I am writing in support of HB2398 which requires the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to ensure that statewide Reach Code mandates achievement of not more than 90 percent of site energy use that other statewide residential and commercial building codes require. My only concern with this bill is I wish it required a farther reach beyond existing building code energy efficiency. However, I understand the importance of consistent codes for the building trades industry and the departments that provide monitoring to ensure the codes are adhered to.

The Reach code will promote more energy efficient building and set a standard that can be adopted into the standard state building code within the next three years. I hope this is followed by a bolder Reach code to the point where we can expect the highest energy efficient building possible with the available technology. Buildings account for nearly 43 percent of the energy we use and 21 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions. We have to reduce our emission by 50 percent by 2030 to have a hope of reducing the effects of climate change. We can not stop heating and lighting our homes and buildings so we must make them more energy efficient.

Several people who testified against this bill pointed out that the energy efficiency goals for new constructions and the Reach code are in the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is correct and, I believe, they should be included in legislation to protect against a change in Oregon Governor who might want to over turn the Executive Oregon 20-04. Clearly the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should be even stronger so that we can reduce emissions more quickly and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Allowing counties and municipalities to adopt the Reach code early, before it become state wide code, provides the opportunity for different areas of the state to advance more quickly than others. This will help grow the construction know how and efficiency resources in our state before requiring all new buildings to meet the energy efficiency code. We need our building to be carbon neutral. Energy efficiency is the least expensive way to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge you to move HB 2398 out of committee with a 'do pass' recommendation.