



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

211 2nd Street, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: (541) 386-1488

February 22, 2021

Dear Hood River House and Senate members,

Hood River City Council would like to express our support for House Bill 2398 allowing 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 has 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.

This bill provides an important, vetted, consistent and accessible tool for small rural communities like Hood River to achieve our climate and energy goals.

Sincerely,

Kate McBride
Mayor, City of Hood River