



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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March 1, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
Representative Ken Helm, Vice-Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith,

I'm writing on behalf of the Salem City Council in enthusiastic support of HB 2398, which would provide local jurisdictions with a critical tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, the bill would increase energy efficiency standards in Oregon's Reach Code and allow cities and counties to adopt that code without review or approval by the Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services.

The City of Salem adopted a goal last year to reduce our citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035 and to become carbon neutral by 2050. The City is in the midst of developing its first climate action plan to identify strategies to help Salem meet that goal. It will be necessary to reduce emissions across a variety of sectors, including the building sector. We know from our 2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory that a significant portion of Salem's emissions come from buildings. As development continues across our city, those emissions can be expected to grow.

HB 2398 provides local jurisdictions like Salem with an important tool to reduce emissions by allowing – but not mandating – cities to adopt the Reach Code and therefore require stronger energy efficiency standards in buildings. This will help jurisdictions across Oregon achieve their climate goals.

The City of Salem is requesting your support for House Bill 2398.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Powers
City Manager

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation