

House Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted via: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Testimony/HEE>

Bill Harvey

Commission Chair
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Baker County is opposed to HB 2180. It proposes a one-size-fits-all approach that does not meet the needs of rural communities. Building codes must be developed at the local government level to address local issues.

The County does not have the population that utilizes electric vehicles and most likely will not until great advances in vehicle performance occur. In a County that has many miles between communities, high mountain passes to cross, and lots of empty area between, electric vehicles simply won't work.

HB 2180 puts the burden of creating a recharging power grid directly at the cost to private developers. In an area where local fees make building too costly for many, HB 2180 will only add to the expenses and further dampen commercial improvements. The costs will have to be passed on to the consumer, the commercial space renter, or multi-family dwelling renter, that are already struggling to get and keep tenants. This will hit some of our most vulnerable, low-wage citizens the hardest as that is the demographic that lives in multifamily housing. Commercial retailers, already compromised by the pandemic and straining to continue, will be faced with increased office rental costs or to go out of business.

HB 2180 is not a good idea and any building codes related to increasing the cost to developers and the people who rely on commercial or multiple family dwellings should be at a local level only. It is the duty of County Commissioners to provide for the health, safety, welfare, and economic viability of the citizens. This Bill does none of that.

Sincerely,


Bill Harvey, Chair
Baker County Commission