



A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Portland, Oregon
www.aiaoregon.org

TO: Senate Energy & Environment Committee

FROM: Heather Wilson, EVP / CEO
American Institute of Architects, Oregon Chapter (AIA Oregon)

DATE: February 7, 2022

RE: Support for SB 1518

Thank you for accepting the comments of the American Institute of Architects, Oregon Chapter. On behalf of more than 1,700 member architects, AIA Oregon shares both our **support for SB 1518** and any assistance you may require as you move forward with changes or requests for more information.

As you likely know, buildings in the United States represent about 40% of the total energy consumed. AIA Oregon members have dedicated research, education and countless professional hours to studying, developing and implementing ways to save energy by encouraging strong design elements and high-performance building standards and practices. We consider ourselves stewards of the environment and experts on resilience.

In 2014, AIA Oregon adopted a formal position on the reach code that still resonates today: AIAO supports improved energy efficiency standards that benefits building owners, building occupants, and society; that are based on established technologies; and provide reasonable payback periods. In addition, AIAO supports incentives provided by the public sector to encourage advanced energy efficient technologies and systems that benefit the greater good. Our National Board of Directors has also approved the strategy to support accelerating responsive action to climate change through buildings, a major contributor to climate change.

Simply, setting a performance threshold in the Oregon Reach code of 10% better than base code serves to clarify requirements that align subsequent revisions of the base code, making it easier to interpret and apply, which will in turn better serve the public. We believe adoption of SB 1518 better aligns the current law with the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 by providing more specific stepped performance standards and lending more transparency and predictability to the trades, developers and designers in the AEC industry.

We appreciate your attention to this important environmental issue and to our opinion.

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Multiple municipalities would like to improve constituents' quality of life by increasing energy efficiency in buildings. AIA Members, who live, work and play in these Oregon communities, contribute by designing structures that take better care of all Oregonians. HB 2398 provides a path and process for municipalities and designers to work toward a cleaner, healthier future, expeditiously. We believe the time is now, and the climate urgency could not be any more well displayed than the last several years of unpredictable fire seasons, winters, and droughts. We must act in the interest of creating resilient cities that respond to current realities.

Thank you in advance for acting; we hope that you will reach out to use for more details or supporting information; please consider us a resource in your deliberation of this topic and thank you for all you do for the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kim Olsen

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