

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Kate Lieber
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 3, 2022

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Findley and members of the committee:

The Electrify Coalition is a group of over 40 organizations that include builders, building engineers, HVAC contractors, solar installers, community organizations, faith-based groups, student groups, community solar project managers and energy focused non-profits. Our coalition is dedicated to promoting clean renewable energy and electrification solutions to improve energy security, reduce energy costs and eliminate energy related carbon emissions in Oregon.

We strongly support SB 1518 which would mandate that the Oregon Reach Codes achieve at least a 10% increase in energy efficiency compared to the Residential and Commercial Base Codes, be updated every 3 years, and allow local municipalities to adopt the Reach Code as the minimum building code for new buildings in their jurisdictions. This measure would avoid a patchwork of local building codes and maintains a rigorous process for code development.

Constructing more energy efficient buildings now is not only sensible and cost effective, but critical to keep Oregonians safe from wildfire smoke, heat events and cold weather. Reach Codes, when adopted as the minimum building standard, will demand more energy efficient buildings and reduce energy costs for homeowners, building owners and the occupants who may be paying the energy bills. In turn, these energy efficient solutions will contribute significantly to reducing one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in Oregon - buildings.

We are aware that many local governments within Oregon see the benefit for their residents of more demanding building codes. Ashland, Beaverton, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Hillsboro, Hood River, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Multnomah County, Portland, Salem and West Linn have all indicated their support for this bill. The League of Oregon Cities and the Metropolitan Mayors Consortium also support this sensible bill.

We urge you to pass SB 1518 to help accelerate our transition to a healthier, more prosperous, lower carbon, clean energy future for Oregon.

Brian Stewart
Founder
Electrify Now

Electrify Coalition Members:

