



2/4/22

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

RE: SB 1518 – SUPPORT

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

Thank you for your consideration of this joint testimony on behalf of Solar Oregon and the Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) in support of SB 1518. OSSIA represents all facets of the solar industry in Oregon, and Solar Oregon is a nonprofit that has been educating communities across the state on the value of solar energy for over four decades.

SB 1518 would permit municipalities to adopt the Reach Code and require adherence to the code as a minimum construction standard and method within their jurisdiction. Increasing energy efficiency in building construction helps facilitate the progress toward meeting the statutory greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for buildings and reaching Oregon's larger emission reduction goals. This bill also allows for further technical advancements in the sustainable building industry to reach and surpass these goals.

Of specific interest to OSSIA and Solar Oregon are the strong solar ready code provisions adopted by the Oregon Building Codes Division in the most recent update to the Reach Code. By enabling municipalities to adopt the Reach Code as their local standard, therefore, cities will have the opportunity to ensure that new homes in their jurisdiction will be able to support a rooftop solar energy system. This is good for solar consumers, the solar industry, and the wider electric grid. For these reasons, we ask for your support of SB 1518.

Respectfully,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director, OSSIA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Crowley-Koch".

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Zach Snyder
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach Snyder".

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