

Submitter: Richenda Fairhurst

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

I am writing to oppose SB 1537. I am grateful to those in the building trades, craftspeople and architects who have build lasting structures and created uniform rules. Unfortunately, we are in an era where we must re-think and re-design our homes and buildings to be both carbon neutral and climate-impact resilient. The time of protecting the old ways of doing things has unhappily ended because climate change has been allowed to proceed unchecked and even now there is no actual reduction of fossil fuel emissions. Kudos to the Oregon Legislature for all they have done to date regarding climate legislation, but there is a lot left to do. We must not bind our young builders, architects, and engineers to old and current building regulations. We must instead give them as much room as possible to redesign, reimagine and rebuild our communities to withstand fire, flood, bomb cyclones, atmospheric rivers, and heat with vast energy reductions and far fewer toxic and petrochemically derived materials. We are counting on our young people and we must not bind them to rules that will hamper their ability to innovate and implement the necessary carbon neutral and climate resilient buildings we need right now and into the future. Thank you.