



## Let Communities Lead on Climate-friendly Buildings

## SB 1518 ("Reach Code")

***Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and air pollution are killing and sickening Oregonians. Our first line of defense are energy-efficient homes and buildings that keep pollution and smoke out and cooling and heating in for comfort.***

Right now, cities, towns, and counties are held back from building more energy-efficiently by state building codes that are not keeping up. The "Reach Code" bill (SB 1518) will free local governments to go one step further if they choose, so all new homes and buildings are healthier, more resilient to extremes, with more affordable utility bills, while also reducing greenhouse gas pollution. Buildings are Oregon's second largest source of climate pollution.

- **Creates the opportunity for cities, towns, or counties to move faster**, if they choose, in reducing climate pollution in the building sector by adopting a uniform higher standard. Many jurisdictions say they cannot achieve their local climate action plans' pollution reduction targets without this option.
- **Allows local jurisdictions to invest sooner** in constructing higher efficiency buildings and avoid costly retrofits in later years.
- **Avoids a potential patchwork of different codes** in different jurisdictions by creating one uniform more-efficient option—to adopt the statewide Reach Code requiring a handful of additional energy efficiency measures—or maintain the statewide base residential and commercial codes.
- **Applies only to new construction** or major modifications of existing buildings. *Homes and buildings constructed from today forward will account for nearly 25-30% of overall building stock by 2050.*
- **Retains the central role of the Building Codes Division and its boards** to develop the specifics of the Reach Code with the same rigorous stakeholder and public input processes currently used for developing statewide codes.
- **Requires the Building Codes Division to update the Reach Code every three years**, just like the commercial and residential codes. It further requires BCD to ensure that the Reach Code is at least 10% more energy efficient than the residential and commercial base codes each code cycle.
- **Affordable home builders and cities support the Reach Code bill** because, according to research, building to a higher standard does not add significantly to the cost of a project, and yet the benefits of better health, comfort, and energy savings are built in—with up to \$90 in savings per year.

## Local governments in support:



- Ashland
- Beaverton
- Bend
- Corvallis
- Eugene
- Hillsboro
- Hood River
- Milwaukie
- Multnomah County
- Portland
- Salem
- West Linn
- League of Oregon Cities (LOC)
- Metropolitan Mayors Consortium (23 mayors)

## Other supporters include:

