SIERRA CLUB
OREGON CHAPTER

February 7, 2022

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1518 (Reach Code)

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, I write in support of the Reach Code bill (SB 1518), which would allow Oregon cities an important choice toward climate action and justice. The Reach Code bill would allow local governments a forward-thinking option to implement stricter energy efficiency-standards within their communities. These standards could reduce air pollution, lower energy costs for homeowners and businesses, and insulate homes to protect vulnerable people with health and safety concerns in periods of extreme temperatures.

This bill would not mandate any action from local communities but would allow cities with growing population sizes or ambitious climate goals to adopt codes that were at least 10% more energy efficient than the state's base residential and commercial codes.

According to research, building to a higher efficiency standard does not add significantly to the cost of a project[1], and yet the benefits of better health, comfort, and energy savings are built in. We urge legislators to vote yes on this common-sense legislation.

Sincerely,

Debra Higbee-Sudyka
Member, Legislative Committee
Chair, Conservation Committee
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

[1] City of Palo Alto 2019 Title 24 Energy Reach Code Cost Effectiveness Analysis https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/development-services/green-building-files/2019-palo-alto-reach-code-cost-effectiveness-20180914.pdf; City of Santa Monica 2016 Building Energy Efficiency Reach Code Cost Effectiveness Study https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/OSE/Categories/Green_Building/2016_SantaMonicaReachCodeCostEffectiveness_Final.pdf