

February 7, 2022

MMC

**Metropolitan
Mayors'
Consortium**

Mayor Lacey Beaty

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado

City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper

City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Travis Stovall

City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Jaimie Fender

City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Rachel Lyles Smith

City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays

City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider

City of Tigard

Mayor Randy Lauer

City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik

City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle

City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Jules Walters

City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden

City of Wood Village

Senator Lieber, Chair

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for SB 1518

Chair Lieber and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of 25 cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express support for SB 1518 and see this as an important step towards achieving local climate goals in their cities and moving Oregon towards a clean energy future.

SB 1518 allows individual cities to decide whether to adopt the Reach Code as the mandatory building code within their jurisdiction. Buildings are the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon after the transportation sector, and it is estimated that new homes and buildings built between 2020 and 2050 will account for up to 30% of Oregon's building stock. Thus, the potential energy efficiency gains that cities stand to achieve by adopting the Reach Code as their standard building code are substantial.

Constructing more efficient buildings is also one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce building emissions. We recognize that more needs to be done to reduce emissions from existing buildings, and as mayors, we would welcome the opportunity to participate in that ongoing conversation. While SB 1518 only addresses new construction, maximizing the energy efficiency of the homes and other buildings being built today will pay dividends in reduced emissions for decades to come.

Reducing building emissions is not the only benefit that the Reach Code offers. Energy efficient homes also retain heat better in the winter and stay cooler in the summer, and they are more likely to keep harmful air out. Considering the extreme weather events of the past year, from Oregon's devastating fire season to its destructive ice storm, the need for housing that is better adapted to our changing climate is clear. Increasing the energy efficiency of new construction can also reduce load and strain on our electrical grid and keep people safer and more comfortable when power and heating go out.

The MMC would also like to acknowledge the role of energy efficiency in reducing energy costs for low-income Oregonians. Currently, energy efficient construction, appliances, heating and cooling systems primarily benefit the homeowners who can afford these upgrades. By allowing cities to require the Reach Code as the standard building code for new construction, more Oregonians will be able to benefit from the energy cost savings that accompany more energy efficient buildings.

The mayors of the MMC urge the committee's support for SB 1518 and appreciate the efforts made by the Oregon Legislature moving Oregon towards meeting its climate goals. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC