

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

The City Council of Corvallis Oregon would like to join other cities in Oregon, including Ashland, Beaverton, Bend, Eugene, Hillsboro, Hood River, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Portland, and Salem, as well as The League of Oregon Cities and the Metropolitan Mayors Consortium, in their support of SB 1518 which gives municipalities the option to adopt the Reach Code as the minimum construction standard within their jurisdictions.

The Reach Code is supported by some of our foundational documents. The Corvallis 2040 Vision states that “Corvallis is an environmentally sustainable city, with broad community awareness and a climate action plan that addresses the many aspects of climate change,” as well as a community that supports “diverse housing and affordable housing.” The Climate Action Plan also supports the Reach Code. The first action within the Buildings and Energy section is to “increase deployment of energy efficiency improvements (such as weatherization, solar attic vents, daylighting, shading, insulation of foundations, fuel efficient appliances, etc.) in new and existing buildings, as well as onsite renewable energy for commercial and residential structures.” Clearly, we are a community that supports moving quickly towards a more sustainable, energy efficient future.

The Portland chapter of the American Association of Architects also supports this bill as it will set “a performance threshold in the Oregon Reach Code of 10% better than base code [and] serves to clarify requirements that align subsequent revisions of the base code, making it easier to interpret and apply, which will in turn better serve the public.” The Code is based upon established technologies and will be reviewed every three years to be sure that it is still up to date and applicable.

By requiring more energy efficient buildings, especially homes, everyone in the community benefits, not just the homeowners who are able to take advantage of rebates and incentives to insulate their homes and install solar panels on their roofs. Corvallis is a college town, with many students who struggle to pay bills while living in poorly insulated and inefficient housing, even in new construction. If this bill becomes law, renters and first time homeowners will receive lower heating and cooling bills, saving both money and energy.

The Corvallis City Council and the greater Corvallis community are ready to take on the challenges of climate change. The Reach Code will allow us to do so. Please support this bill during the 2022 session. And thank you for all of your hard work to make Oregon a better place for all of us to live.

Sincerely,

Corvallis City Council