



February 7, 2022

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
From: Tess Freeman, Homeownership Program Coordinator, Kôr Community Land Trust  
Date: February 7, 2022  
RE: Support for Senate Bill 1518

Chair Lieber and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 1518.

My Name is Tess Freeman and I am the Homeownership Program Coordinator for Kôr Community Land Trust. We provide permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for the people who contribute to the fabric of the Central Oregon economy and community. Through the Community Land Trust model, Kôr homes are permanently affordable and will serve the community for generations to come. That is why Kôr builds homes that are goal Net Zero. Kôr believes that low to moderate income homeowners, who've historically been subjected to low quality homes and high energy bills, deserve the affordability, health benefits and durability that energy efficient buildings provide.

I am here to support Senate Bill 1518 because this bill creates a pathway for local governments like Bend to bring their climate goals to fruition and prioritizes access for those who will be most impacted by climate threats.

At Kôr, we see the positive financial and health impacts of energy efficient upgrades for our homeowners first-hand. During wildfires, resulting in hazardous air quality, the air inside our homes was much cleaner due to the tight building envelope and efficient ventilation systems. During the June 2021 heatwave, the homes stayed comfortable and cool without any increase in the homeowner's electric bill. We estimate that our homeowners save \$1,100 annually because of the passive and active energy features in their homes.

Kôr works with a handful of sub-contractors to procure energy-saving building materials, appliances, and other clean technologies. We believe that local municipalities should have the



ability to adopt The Reach Code so that the market for this labor, the materials and supplies is supported and expanded. Our goal at Kôr is to be less dependent on the generosity of our contractors for energy efficient upgrades to allow us to scale our pipeline and address an exponentially growing need in our community. The anticipated growth in the clean energy sector that this bill could help foster would help us achieve this goal and ultimately provide more affordable housing to the area.

The standard of building more affordable, efficient, healthier and durable buildings should be standard practice in our region and in the state of Oregon. Above all, this measure will support a more equitable transition to a cleaner economy by allowing a broader cross-section of our community to join in addressing this major sector of climate emissions in our state.

For these reasons, Kôr strongly supports this legislation. Thank you for your time and all your efforts.