

Monique Mallari
Oregon City, Clackamas County
Testimony in support of SB 444

Good afternoon. My name is Monique Mallari, and I represent Oregon City in Clackamas County. I am providing my testimony in favor of SB 444, which directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to revise our state building code to align with the accessibility standards set by the *Fair Housing Act* and *ANSI*. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of this legislation.

Accessible design benefits individuals with disabilities and enhances the quality of life for seniors, families, and others in our community. When buildings are designed with accessibility in mind from the outset, we create safer, more welcoming environments and avoid the higher costs and complications of retrofitting later.

In addition to these accessibility benefits, updating our building codes offers a unique opportunity to integrate energy efficiency standards and decarbonization measures. As outlined in the Decarbonization Report by Sujata Rajpurohit, incorporating these elements can significantly reduce emissions and lower operating costs, further contributing to a sustainable future. Adjusting our building codes to recognized standards fosters consistency, safety, and efficiency in construction practices while demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity and environmental responsibility.

For these reasons, I strongly support SB 444 and respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Housing and Development to adopt this measure. Thank you for your time and consideration.