



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



Department of Consumer
and Business Services

April 24, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Education Subcommittee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz and members of the committee,

I write to request fully funding the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, as detailed in Governor Kotek's Recommended Budget, with specific gratitude and support for the Institute for Natural Resources (INR), a partnership among Oregon's higher education establishments housed at Oregon State University.

Established by the Legislature in 2001, the INR's mission is to provide reliable, objective, relevant, and science-based integrated natural resource knowledge to facilitate long-term stewardship of Oregon's environment and natural resources.

As part of its broader reach, INR produces the Oregon Explorer Tool. In partnership with Oregon State University INR, the Building Codes Division (BCD) of the Department of Consumer and Business Services recently launched the Oregon Design Criteria Hub using the Oregon Explorer. This hub is designed to help make housing production and other construction easier in Oregon. It is an interactive mapping tool that provides site-specific climatic and geographic design criteria for construction projects governed by the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) and the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC). The hub takes design criteria (e.g. snow load and wind load) that were spread throughout different code tables and internet sources and puts them into one easy to use place, creating efficiency for design professionals, plans examiners, and other building safety professionals. Without the INR's Oregon Explorer Tool and the Oregon State University partnership, BCD would not have been able to efficiently design and create the criteria hub for the benefit of our customers and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alana Cox, Administrator
Building Codes Division, Department of Consumer and Business Services



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