



Testimony on House Bill 2005
House Committee on Energy and Environment

State Representative Tina Kotek
April 4, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 2005.

Oregon is fortunate to have a robust and expeditious system for codifying the most current building code standards. In addition to the six individual building code boards, the Legislature adopted House Bill 2950 in 2009 to create the Construction Industry Energy Board, which improves the codification of the latest building code standards relating to energy efficiency by combining the expertise and representation from the other existing boards.

Last year, I learned about the value of mechanical insulation to energy efficiency, especially in large industrial buildings. Mechanical insulation is important because properly insulating a building's piping and mechanical systems increases energy efficiency and saves money. A 2011 study from the National Insulation Association on hospitals and schools piqued my interest. The study concluded that, for hospitals, the energy savings for mechanical insulation are estimated to average about 78% of the total site energy usage. In addition the study concluded that proper and timely maintenance of the insulation on these distribution systems is critical.

House Bill 2005 was drafted as a starting point to explore how Oregon can harness more energy savings by maximizing the use of mechanical insulation. I'm happy to report that Oregon's building codes reflect the most current standard for mechanical insulation, something other states have not yet achieved. That said, while Oregon may be ahead of many states as it pertains to the standard, today you will hear testimony about how we can further improve the way we educate local jurisdictions to the importance of mechanical insulation and emphasize the importance of maintenance on existing insulated piping and mechanical systems.

If you have any technical questions of the Department of Business and Consumer Services (DCBS), please direct them to Mark Heizer who is available in the audience.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.