

5 March 2013



Representative Jules Bailey, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-274
Salem, OR 97301
rep.julesbailey@state.or.us

Re: HB 2793

Dear Chairman Bailey and Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of SERA Architects and our Sustainability Resources Group to support mandatory energy disclosures for homeowners such as the energy performance scores addressed by HB 2793. I believe that enacting legislation that requires reporting of actual energy use for all buildings is critically important for the built environment and consistent with trends in building design, construction, ownership and codes. Additional benefits include the creation of solid, regionally based jobs (building repair, remodel, weatherization and energy upgrades will always be locally based, improving the local multiplier), and long-term cost savings for homeowners and other building owners resulting in greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Architectural firms like SERA and others in the building industry are increasingly focused on designing and constructing more sustainable and higher-performing buildings which reduce operating costs. This has been supported by rating systems such as the US Green Building Council's LEED program as well as various forms of incentives. While acting on these intentions is important, the benefits are primarily realized in the operation of the buildings. Validating and reporting on energy use is critical to assuring that the intentions are actually met, to provide feedback to the building industry, and to support a more full and accurate documentation of building values.

We support HB 2793 and encourage you to consider the range of benefits that it and related legislation provide to Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, the western region and the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

SERA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clark Brockman'.

Clark Brockman, AIA, LEED Fellow & AP BD+C
Principal, Sustainability

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Petterson'.

Lisa Petterson, AIA, LC, LEED AP BD+C
Associate Principal, Director of Sustainability Resources

cc: Adam Crawford
adam.crawford@state.or.us
Anne May
anne.may@state.or.us