



## **HB 2437: Tax Credits for Energy Efficient Homes**

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If improving the energy efficiency of homes is desirable, then code changes, not tax credits are in order. Clever and enlightening media work would be more cost effective as well. Imagine a “Turn off your porch lights when you’re not expecting company” media campaign. It could increase energy efficiency and save significant amounts of energy. A single switch turns on or off three front porch light bulbs at many homes. I asked myself when I was writing this if I couldn’t learn to turn down the water heater not only when traveling abroad for two weeks, but also when traveling to Bellingham for four days.

Typical development builders, as well as individual homeowners having their home built to their own standards have already begun building highly energy efficient homes because that is what a growing number of consumers want. The market is changing as interest in efficiency increases, and will continue to do so as energy costs increase and public awareness grows. Clearly in a state where it seems that every third car is a Prius, this change is happening on its own. It is codes, and an education campaign, not tax credits, that the legislature should address.

Further, it is our understanding that the rating system in the bill is quite costly and too dependent on the person performing the rating. Additionally, how people live in their homes is as important as efficiency measures.

Tax Fairness Oregon would not vote for the bill – but then again we don’t get to vote.

