



March 20, 2017

The Honorable Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street, SE  
Salem, OR 97301

Routed to: [hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

**RE: Support of HB 2710-Increasing Efficiency of the Oregon Energy Code.**

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene supports statewide high performance building energy codes as a means to implement our local climate and energy goals. Due to our state's system for model code adoption at the state level, leadership from the Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) is required to advance high performance building energy codes. Locally, we have a strong policy framework that provides explicit support to BCD in their efforts to update the energy codes.

In 2014, the Eugene City Council passed the Climate Recovery Ordinance that states:

*'By the year 2030, all businesses, individuals and others living or working in the city collectively shall reduce the total (not per capita) use of fossil fuels by 50% compared to 2010 usage.'*

To accomplish this goal, the Eugene Community Climate and Energy Action Plan, directs staff to:

*'Lobby to improve state building codes that encourage the use of passive systems in buildings for heating and cooling systems, lighting, and ventilation.'*

As part of the community land use planning process, Envision Eugene, an estimated population increase of roughly 35,000 people will occur in the next 20 years, forecasting a need of an additional 15,000 homes to meet this increased population. To address the climate and energy aspects of our projected growth, Envision Eugene actions include:

*'Make energy efficiency in buildings and vehicles the first line of action in reducing energy dependence and greenhouse gas emissions.'*

HB 2710 creates a pathway toward code and industry success by setting a known timeline and process for performance improvement in the Oregon Energy Code, **with a clear target to achieve by 2032**. Zero Energy Ready buildings are already being constructed across the state and a similar code pathway is being implemented in our west coast neighbors, Washington and California. Please vote yes to HB2710 to make Zero Energy Buildings the norm in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Zelenka  
City Council President