



OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214
PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281
OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG
WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: March 20, 2017

RE: House Bill 2710

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon, I wanted to offer our support for House Bill 2710 and the -2 amendments.

As an organization with a long history working to address the impacts of climate change in Oregon, we believe that HB 2710 is worthy of your support. As you know, this legislation calls for the Department of Consumer and Business Services to develop policies regarding energy efficiency standards that ensure reductions in energy use in newly constructed buildings. HB 2710 sets a clear goal for advisory boards and stakeholders, but importantly, it does not change the process for updating Oregon's building codes or mandate energy efficiency increases by a specific amount each code cycle.

Oregon has long been a national and international leader in energy efficient green building. Unfortunately, while our neighboring states have developed pathways for new buildings to reach net zero energy over the next 15 years, Oregon has fallen behind and is now struggling to keep up with federal standards. And though some developers in Oregon are of course constructing buildings that are very efficient, the market forces driving the transition are hit-or-miss. HB 2710 will provide consistent standards and accelerate progress.

The Sierra Club believes that House Bill 2710 can help cut energy bills dramatically, promote cleaner air and more comfortable buildings, and significantly reduce carbon pollution in our state. For these reasons, we strongly support this legislation and we urge this committee to do the same. Thank you very much for considering our comments.