



March 20, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support of House Bill 2710 (HB2710) – A Pathway to Net Zero Energy Buildings

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

As the Mayor of a city on the verge of setting the goal of being a Net Zero city by 2040, the advantage of having dramatic statewide increases in energy efficiency standards is huge. Doing so at scale will cause the price of this already reasonable process to become even more affordable.

Throughout the state there are several examples of buildings that have achieved deep reductions in energy use, and have even achieved Net Zero status, without a huge increase in cost. As these techniques and materials become the norm, the associated costs will go down even more and the savings to the residents of the buildings will be dramatic.

I was honored to attend the Grand Opening of the second phase of the Orchards at Orenco – a low income housing project in Hillsboro. I was told that the combined energy bills to the residents in the first phase units had been coming in at about \$14 a month, making them truly affordable homes. The cost of the improved energy efficiency was thought to be about 4% over standard construction in the second phase. Just having done it once, Walsh Construction had been able to improve costs from an 11% over standard to the 4% over standard proving the concept that as this becomes the norm, the costs will drop dramatically.

Climate change is the biggest threat to mankind we have ever known. We have the technology to dramatically increase the energy efficiency of our buildings, it would be sheer folly to not to take advantage of those technologies as quickly as possible and reap the financial benefits of lower energy use over the lifetime of the buildings we build today.

It is my hope that the soon-to-be-renovated Ledding Library, which the City of Milwaukie will begin construction on next year, will be at least a Net Zero ready building so that operating costs will be dramatically lower over the next half-century. If these cost savings are realized, the Ledding Library will be able to better serve the people of Milwaukie for another half-century and beyond.

I ask that you move Oregon forward by supporting HB2710. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Gamba", is written over the text of the letter.

Mark Gamba
Mayor

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