

**Testimony**  
**Jim Edelson**  
**House Energy and Environment Committee**  
**Oregon State Legislature**  
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Chair Helm, Members of the Committee,

My name is Jim Edelson; I am the Director of Codes and Policy at New Buildings Institute, a national non-profit headquartered in Portland. I was a member of Oregon's Commercial Energy Conservation Advisory Committee in 2009 and 2010. I am currently a voting member of the Standing Project Committee for the nation's high-performance model building Standard, ASHRAE 189.1.

In my 2009 testimony before this body, I emphasized that SB 79 set in motion a clear direction for the state to reduce energy use in buildings by 15% for 2011, and set forth a path through 2030 for buildings to help meet the greenhouse goals that this Legislature passed in 2007.

Fortunately, SB 79 passed the Legislature by wide margins, and was signed into law by Governor Kulongoski. The agencies met their first mandate in that bill to improve the next code by 15%.

On the other hand, Oregon's energy code has virtually stalled since then – for a period of about six years. The consequences are threefold:

1. OR is now well behind its own 2030 code objectives
2. The OR energy code stands in the way of many Oregon cities that must reduce building sector emissions for their climate action plans. Unlike most other states, cities in Oregon are prohibited by statute from adopting their own codes.
3. OR has fallen well behind its peer states on the West Coast - all of whose governors agreed to the goals of the Pacific Coast Collaborative. Please note that those Pacific Coast Collaborative goals provide the basis for the 2032 code you now have in front of you in HB 2710.

So while OR has stalled, both CA and WA have kept fully apace with 2030 goals. Using DOE and WA state data, we can estimate that commercial buildings built in WA in 2017 will on average use 17% less energy than those built in OR. For CA:

Single family homes built to the 2016 standards will use about 28 percent less energy .....than the 2013 standards.

Remember, this 28% progress in CA and 17% progress in WA is occurring while progress in OR has stalled.

And its not just our neighbors on the West Coast. According to the Department of Energy, OR codes have now fallen behind such states as Utah and Alabama, and even Governor Chris Christie himself approved the 2015 IECC for New Jersey a full two, and maybe three years ahead of Oregon.

Legislatures across the country have mandated regular increases in energy codes in their states. But in the eight years since SB 79, OR consumers can no longer be sure that their homes and buildings are up to national energy standards. With HB 2710, the Legislature can set the state's energy codes agenda once again.

Thank You.