

April 17, 2017

Members of the 79th Legislative Assembly:

Our coalition of business, labor, and local government is opposed to HB 2737(-2), and any other bill that undermines Oregon's statewide building code and code adoption process.

The building codes adopted in Oregon are based on national standards. The robust code adoption process is directed by Oregon's seven statutory boards, which are made up of stakeholders who are in the best position to determine the effectiveness of code provisions.

Oregon's unique building code system has been around since 1974, and it is one of the most successful systems in the nation. Writing codes at the legislative level undermines the system that has placed Oregon as a leader on building code compliance and has the buy off of key stakeholders. Putting code provisions in statute would undermine the professional and technical expertise of Oregon's statutory boards and the experts who serve on those boards.

We believe any change to building code standards should be vetted for life safety, durability, and technical and economic feasibility. The code standards presented in HB 2737(-2) have not been vetted through Oregon's process, and we encourage the Legislature to pause before changing any code requirement without adequate review.

In closing, we ask that you oppose HB 2737(-2) and any amendment that would undermine Oregon's building code and code adoption process, designed to protect Oregon citizens.

Sincerely,

The businesses, labor organizations, and local governments that drive Oregon's construction industry



Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.



OREGON Fire Marshals ASSOCIATION



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

