



Hermiston School District 8R

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October 17, 2022

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Pam Marsh, Co-Chair
Senator Lynn Findley, Co Vice-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Co Vice-Chair
Joint Task Force On Resilient Efficient Building
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Joint Task Force On Resilient Efficient Building Goals

Dear Chairs Lieber & Marsh, and Vice-Chairs Findley & Owens, members of the Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient Buildings:

We continue to appreciate the opportunity to engage and participate in the Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient Building (REBuilding). We share a common interest in collaborating effectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon’s building stock. We also know we can follow Legislative direction and intent, and that we can do so in a way that is based in consensus, not division. We are confident that we can find policies with broad support and will yield significant, equitable outcomes. As a task force made of volunteers with varying insight, we must remember what we share is a knowledge of the importance of our endeavor.

With this knowledge, shared values and goals in mind, we are significantly concerned about the processes and direction of the task force. We are grateful to be a part of the task force, and remain committed to working in good faith with a goal of consensus - we implore all the REBuilding task force members to commit to the same. We steadfastly hope you will consider our recommendations to clarify direction, improve collaboration and continue to pursue agreement and transparency. For our shared success, it is important that we are future-thinking, and that our processes and expectations serve our shared objectives.

As an example of our process concerns, we were asked to send and report back on a survey with less than a week to complete the task. The survey software was difficult to navigate, and the content was important and required thoughtful response. Interested parties spent a significant amount of time on the survey because they were interested in contributing in a meaningful way,

“Serving the needs of all students with rigorous and engaging program choices, mutual respect, and high expectations.”

and ultimately it made parties lose confidence in the task force's work. Simplifying user experience and the method by which one responds to requests for feedback is necessary.

Functionality concerns is side by side with the framing and nature of the questions that exist in this survey. It is important that those who provide feedback and guidance are given the ability to offer nuance, examples and details when asked about something like "Building Performance Standards". We know these are not simple concepts and we must offer a landscape for thoughtful critique, whether it is a need for adjustment or an appreciation for something that is working well. The ability to respond thoroughly will yield better results and hopefully improve the frequency with which we need to revisit a given topic. It was our understanding that a 'comments' section was to be included with each item to help capture that more nuanced feedback. The structure of the survey as it was, removed that and forced respondents to give only varying levels of support, rather than voice other viewpoints or concerns.

We also know that no one is interested in misinterpretation and by soliciting detail and specifics we can head off misunderstandings around a responder's intent and overall be more efficient. From previous feedback, it seems we all care to establish a resiliency fund to allow building owners to update their gas and electric heating and cooling systems with more efficient equipment and provide a cost offset. Feedback also suggests that Building Performance Standards could be adjusted. We want to be certain we can accomplish these goals without creating a separate yet somewhat duplicative building code, a concept that has been rejected by the Legislature. It is imperative that the taskforce is focused on consensus-based outcomes, and reflects policies supported by the overall membership.

While we understand that the Task Force is an ongoing process, and we continue to receive information, reports, and concepts, we do hope that soon we will begin to look at what the collective goals are. We do not feel that currently there is a well-defined objective that we are all working towards, which in turn presents a difficulty in refining the conversation and further developing consensus recommendations.

It is important that the REBuilding task force is focused on what is possible now, while keeping eyes on the future. Immediately, that means a focus on current consensus, not divisiveness, earnest collaboration and honest communication. We commit in good faith to these goals, and hope you join us.

Best Regards,

Dr. Tricia Mooney
Superintendent of Schools
Hermiston School District

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NECA

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Clatsop County

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