

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Pam Marsh
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 16, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith and members of the committee:

The Electrify Coalition is a group of 30 organizations that include builders, building engineers, HVAC contractors, solar installers, community organizations, faith-based groups, community solar project managers and energy focused non-profits. Our coalition is dedicated to promoting clean renewable energy and electrification solutions to improve energy security, reduce energy costs and eliminate energy related carbon emissions in Oregon.

We strongly support HB 2398 which would mandate that the Oregon Reach Codes achieve at least a 10% increase in energy efficiency compared to the Residential and Commercial Base Codes and allow local municipalities to adopt the Reach Code as the minimum building code for new buildings in their jurisdictions.

Constructing more energy efficient buildings now is critical to reducing the carbon emissions from the Oregon building stock. Reach Codes, which would be updated every 3 years, will demand more energy efficient buildings and reduce energy costs for homeowners, building owners and the occupants who may be paying the energy bills. In turn, these stricter codes will reduce carbon emissions in our state and encourage construction with appliances and HVAC systems that represent the low emissions solutions of the future. This measure would avoid a patchwork of local building codes and also allow municipalities with the foresight and desire to move faster towards carbon reduction and energy efficiency than the standard codes require.

We are aware that many cities within Oregon see the benefit of more demanding building codes and want the ability to make faster progress against decarbonization for their residents. Ashland, Beaverton, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Hillsboro, Milwaukie and Hood River have all indicated their support for this bill.

We urge you to pass HB 2398 to help accelerate our transition to a healthier, more prosperous, lower carbon, clean energy future for Oregon.

Brian Stewart
Founder
Electrify Now

Electrify Coalition Members:

