

Submitter: Rich Peppers
On Behalf Of: MCAT
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1518

Dear Committee Members -

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

I urge your support for SB 1518 because it represents a common-sense solution to a dilemma we have in our state: how to speed up our state's (i.e. our communities') progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all facets of our economy, including our buildings and building construction; and how to keep a reasonable approach toward the administration of our statewide building codes while also keeping housing prices under control. This bill, SB 1518 has, I believe, found a good compromise between these two pushes and pulls, and I urge you to adopt it.

I realize not everyone in Oregon is as ready as I am, or as able, to accept significant changes in my life to reduce our state's contributions to climate change; but there are more than a few communities in Oregon where community leaders and voters at large are eager to speed up our progress toward more climate-friendly practices. We are not yet on track to meet the goals science tells us we in Oregon and other parts of the US or world need to meet to avert serious climate disruptions and all the follow-on effects we can expect. Giving those communities that are ready, though, a Reach Code standard as defined in the bill - and only that one possible, higher-standard option for their communities - avoids "opening the floodgates" on our statewide code standard while still allowing those who are ready to move faster.

Another benefit of the proposed new REACH Code system would be that the number of communities that then proceed to adopt the REACH Code would be a measure of support for upgrading the underlying statewide building code, as well; just one of several measures, but a useful one.

Thanks for reading -

Rich Peppers