

Submitter: Marion Powell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1518

Good afternoon Chair Lieber (LEE-bur) and members of the committee.

My name is Marion Powell. I'm the Oregon organizer for Our Climate. We train and mobilize young people across the country to advance state policies that sharply reduce pollution and ensure a just transition to clean energy.

After a horrible year of climate-fueled harms in Oregon-- from the deadly heat dome to long-lasting drought and surging wildfire. As a student during this time, I remember these specific climate events disrupting my education and ability to focus on school when the power was out or the air was too smoky to leave the house. I expected climate action to take center stage for our state legislature. The climate crisis doesn't have any off years, and neither can your work to protect us from it.

Unfortunately, I don't see an ambitious climate agenda in Oregon this year. The "Reach Code" bill you're hearing about today may be the only bill in 2022 with the potential to significantly reduce climate pollution. For that reason alone, you must finish the work begun last year and pass this bill. It's also common-sense policy to allow communities to lead the way on climate protection.

As my generation graduates school, goes to work, and builds a future, we're the ones who will be living and working inside the homes and buildings being constructed right now. Oregon is growing fast! An estimated one-third of all the buildings standing in our state when I'm your age aren't even built yet. All of those buildings need to be energy efficient and ready for climate change harms or it will be another way our generation was failed by the previous generations.

More energy efficient homes and buildings reduce air pollution by wasting less energy and that energy savings also makes them more affordable to live in. More than a dozen communities, like where I live in Corvallis, need you to remove this barrier so they can adopt a Reach Code and build my future smarter and healthier.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me out. We're counting on you.