

February 8, 2022

Chair Lieber and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in support of S.1518.

I write as a resident of rural Oregon who believes strongly that it is time to remove any and all roadblocks that stand in the way of our ability to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. I **strongly urge the Senate to enact S1518** to add Reach Codes to state building code as specialty code and give power of administration and interpretation of Reach Code to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

I am not an architect, an engineer, or a scientist. I am a concerned citizen who spends a good deal of time educating myself on the causes of climate change, how we can reduce our climate footprint, and state and local policy changes needed to implement these solutions.

DEQ reports that more than a third of total statewide greenhouse gas emissions are associated with residential and commercial buildings. We must reduce these emissions.

Building codes present an important policy tool—or as it stands now, a policy obstacle – for reducing the greenhouse gasses emitted by our buildings. Based on the pace of climate change we are experiencing, the effects already upon us, and the dire likely scenarios that lie ahead, greenhouse gas emissions provisions should be included in the standard statewide Building Codes. I'm not sure why that's not currently on the table, but here we are.

SB1518 would at least move us forward by allowing municipalities and counties to adopt codes more stringent than the basic statewide codes would help communities take steps to reduce our contributions to global warming.

My own community of Ashland is searching for strategies to reduce the use of methane gas for building energy. The City enacted a Climate & Energy Action Plan in 2017 that set goals to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. However, we have found that we simply do not have all the policy tools we need to reduce the use of methane—a highly potent greenhouse gas.

I was very disappointed that legislation to amend the state's reach codes did not pass in 2021. I feel it is absolutely urgent that we pass S1518 in 2022 so that municipalities and counties can adopt codes more stringent than the basic statewide codes.

Thank you for your public service,

Lorrie Kaplan
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