



June 9, 2023

Re: Support for House Bill 3409

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Pham, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerry Meade and I'm the Executive Director of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC). NEEC is a non-profit business association with a mission to decarbonize building energy use. Our member businesses are working at the forefront of the building services industry to support their customers in achieving their energy use and decarbonization goals. I'm writing to share our support for House Bill 3409.

NEEC is supportive of policies that advance smart buildings practices and technologies, energy efficiency, and decarbonization. We know these policies help manage energy costs, promote resiliency in buildings, and support the State in achieving much needed greenhouse gas reductions. HB 3409 includes an array of policy approaches we support and we are eager to see it passed by the legislature. I wanted to highlight our particular support for the "Energy Performance Standards for Covered Buildings" section (previously SB 870). Smart and efficient buildings are essential to the clean energy transition. As Oregon decarbonizes supply-side electricity through the Clean Energy Targets, it will become increasingly essential that we operate our buildings in a manner that optimizes facility energy demand and consumption to promote building efficiency as well as grid reliability and resiliency. These performance standards will be a foundational step toward achieving that important goal.

While we do support the language as written, we did want to highlight one suggestion: in preparing building owners to comply with the standard, we suggest encouraging facility operators to receive training and credentialing via the Buildings Operator Certification (BOC) Program. The BOC Program trains operators in the efficient management of their facilities and is offered in Oregon, both in-person and virtually, via the Northwest Energy Water & Energy Education Institute (NWEI) at Lane Community College. ETO also offers incentives to participating building owners to offset the cost of training their staff. As building owners make changes in their facilities to comply with performance standards, maintaining the savings stemming from those changes will rest, in part, on the skills of their operators; certified operators reduce operating costs by as much as \$20,000 annually with 2% annual energy savings on average, and importantly, they see that the savings of installed measures persist over the lifetime of the equipment through proper and efficient management of the building systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to seeing these new policies in place in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Meade".

Kerry Meade
Executive Director
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council