



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 17, 2021

House Committee On Energy and Environment
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
Representative Ken Helm, Vice Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of House Bill 2398-1

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Smith, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) supports the passage of House Bill 2398-1. OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization of more than 800 planners from across the state who work for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, tribes, community-based organizations, universities, and private firms. OAPA provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. OAPA supports sustainable communities and works to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

HB 2398-1 requires Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to ensure that the statewide Reach Code mandates achievement of not more than 90 percent of site energy use that other state-wide residential and commercial building codes require, and permits a municipality to adopt a Reach Code and require adherence to code as minimum construction standard and method within its jurisdiction. The provisions that allow a municipality with an adopted Reach Code to require adherence as a minimum construction standard are key. Additionally, the allowance of a municipality's adoption of the Reach Code to not be considered an amendment to the state building code and not require the director to review or approve the adoption is important to provide flexibility and streamline the process for adoption at the local level.

At the local level, building codes are an important tool that jurisdictions can leverage to meet local, state, and regional greenhouse gas reduction goals. This aligns with one of OAPA's 2021 Legislative Priorities: "Confront climate change." Additional OAPA priorities include: "Address the housing crisis", "Promote resiliency and recovery", and "Advance racial equity", all of which are bolstered by lower energy costs for households and businesses across Oregon and reduced pollution from energy generation, that would follow from energy efficiency improvements.

OAPA supports the -1 amendment, allowing cities to adopt the Reach Code and require that construction adhere to the Reach Code within their jurisdiction even if the county that the city is within has not adopted the Reach Code.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 2398-1. OAPA recommends the Committee vote the bill out with a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Ray'.

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eunice Kim'.

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee