

## LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT

### **Concept subject or title:**

Energy Code Board.

### **Brief description of proposal:**

Create an Energy Code Board within the State Building Codes Division with authority over the energy conservation provisions of the state building code. The Board will also have authority to adopt provisions that address indoor air quality and environmental sustainability. Other boards may review specific energy code provisions to the extent that they affect fire, life and safety issues.

This Board develops, reviews and provides recommendations regarding the initiation, design, implementation, and evaluation of energy efficiency and renewable energy building codes for residential, commercial, and industrial applications in Oregon. This Board will subscribe to the concept of sustainable energy development by which the state seeks to meet current energy, economic, and environmental needs while preserving the means to meet the energy needs of future generations.

The board will be appointed by the Building Codes Administrator with concurrence of the Director of the Department of Energy. It shall consist of:

- A mechanical engineer
- An architect
- A homebuilder or remodeler
- A utility representative
- A representative of an energy efficiency or renewable energy advocacy group
- A contractor providing an energy-related service
- A low-income housing advocate
- Two public members at-large

### **What problem does concept this address?**

Current building codes boards with authority over the energy provisions of the code have expertise primarily or only in structural and safety aspects of buildings, not energy, sustainability or environmental aspects (carbon emissions). As a result, in recent years the energy code adoption process has been slow and relatively unresponsive to opportunities for cost-effective upgrades. A group of experts drawn from the energy community as well as the building community would be much more knowledgeable and would conduct a much more effective process for upgrading the provisions of the energy code, and in prioritizing the code-related goals and benchmarks set forth in the Western Climate Initiative.

### **What elements of the current policy context are necessary to understand the concept?**

The existing structure of the building codes boards is lacking in its ability (by design) to swiftly take action in order to establish, implement, and integrate any required code changes that are warranted to meet WCI goals.

**What happens if this concept isn't implemented?**

**It is likely that many cost-effective and important energy code upgrades will be delayed or rejected by boards insufficiently well versed in the practices and progress of the energy efficiency and green building community. Significant energy savings and carbon reductions in new building projects will be lost or delayed.**

**Would you characterize energy and GHG benefits of this proposal as a major, medium, or minor?**

Major

**What data are needed to quantify these benefits?**

None.

**Will there be a fiscal impact? Order of magnitude estimate?**

There will be a relatively minor fiscal impact on the Building Codes Division for staffing the board.

**What are the likely training and infrastructure needs?**

None.