

**Testimony of James Edelson  
Oregon Reach Code Committee  
March 29, 2011**

My name is James Edelson; I am testifying on behalf of the New Buildings Institute..

NBI has been a participant in Reach Code development in many states. . It is my observation that Oregon has a very important opportunity to be a national leader in Reach Codes, and NBI has a keen interest in seeing Oregon adopt a viable and effective Reach Code.

We also participated in the development and passage of SB 79.

As SB 79 grew directly out of Governor Kulongoski's Energy Efficiency Work Group, it is clear the first objective of the Reach Code is energy efficiency. We have participated and made significant contributions to the energy portions of this Reach Code draft – and believe it is a well-considered draft Energy Chapter that will serve the intentions of SB 79, and the interests of Oregonians, very well.

NBI also is participating in the development of the IgCC. The IgCC is a work in progress. That being said, the IgCC provides an excellent framework for building a Sustainability Code for Oregon. But the key question before this Committee is whether the current version of the draft Reach code, based on the early versions of the IgCC, contains a sufficient basis on which to implement the several non-energy sections of this code on July1, 2011.

I have participated significantly only on the energy chapter development, but as I reviewed the remainder of the draft recently it became evident that much of the framework is marked "Reserved" – meaning Oregon is not ready to propose content, or feels it lacks authority from SB 79 to propose in those subject areas.

It is worrisome that so many of the sections are "reserved" – and does not offer the heft of a fully completed Sustainability Code. A judicious examination of which sections of the current draft add 'code-level' weight to the current proposal is essential.

I urge your support for the strongest Reach Code you can propose – and urge you to choose the scope of the code the best fits the authority granted and content provided..

Thank you for this opportunity to share our perspective.