

**From:** [Eric McDaniel](#)  
**To:** [PUC.puc.publicmeetings \\* PUC](#)  
**Subject:** OPUC Public Comments for Extension of ETO New Buildings Program  
**Date:** Monday, August 23, 2021 8:11:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good Morning,

I am writing to you in support of the proposed extension and TRC exceptions in OPUC's July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 memo. As an architect and an energy analyst who focuses on high performance buildings, ETO's New Building program and their multitude of offerings ranging from modeling technical assistance to incentives that help offset building owners investments in more energy efficient strategies is a proverbial carrot to the design community. Because of this level of support, Oregon has one of the strongest and most vibrant communities of professionals dedicated to energy efficiency anywhere in the country which is evident at any of ETO's Building Simulation User Group (BSUG) meetings and seminars.

The incentives available through custom and model track programs is paramount to many projects that we work on and represents a bulk of our consulting services. Without these incentives, there is a strong likelihood that it would have dire negative impacts on the livelihood of many professionals (architects, engineers, energy analyst) who often use these incentives as a way to convince a vast majority of their clients to move forward with exploring energy efficiency and higher building performance. Please keep in mind that energy conservation beyond code is a voluntary process and requires continual dialogue, planning and refinement across all stakeholders with the financial aspect being one of the most important value propositions at our disposal.

By offering the proposed extension, this allows the overall design community and ETO an opportunity to collect data to understand better how we can continue to advance and promote energy efficiency within the built environment under a more stringent state energy code. Right now, one of the challenges we, as designers and energy modeling professionals, run into is how can we show value to our clients, especially under the current circumstances of cost escalation, and encourage them to make the necessary investment into energy conservation that goes beyond code.

The PNW is seen nationally as one of the beacons of energy efficiency and conservation while being in both a mild/temperate climate with some of the lowest energy rates in the country. Without programs like these, there is a chance that it could have a wide range of economic repercussions up and down the supply chain (designers, suppliers & contractors), not to mention limiting utility demand reductions which are part of many local utilities overall climate action plans. In closing, I believe the proposed extension and TRC exception is an appropriate action so we can gather more information that will help us chart and navigate a path together.

Thanks you for your time and allowing me to submit my opinion on this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me.

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