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## **Oregon Building Codes Division honored for energy code leadership**

(Salem) — The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division received a national honor for its work in energy efficiency. The U.S. Department of Energy recognized the division with the sixth annual Jeffrey A. Johnson Award for “Excellence in the Advancement of Building Energy Codes and Performance.”

The Building Codes Division was presented the award on July 26, 2011, at the U.S. Department of Energy’s 2011 Energy Codes Conference. The award recognizes a leader or team in the United States for sustained service of the highest caliber in the pursuit of energy efficiency goals.

Oregon has long been recognized as a national leader in energy efficiency. The Oregon energy code has consistently been one of the strongest in the nation, spearheaded for more than two decades by the Oregon Department of Energy. Two years ago, official state support for the energy code moved to the Building Codes Division, which immediately began to aggressively pursue further improvements to the code.

In 2009, a wide range of stakeholders created Senate Bill 79, to continually improve energy efficiency. Under SB 79 requirements, the Building Codes Division adopted a 15 percent energy efficiency increase in Oregon’s mandatory commercial energy code, which was completed in 2010, and a 10 percent gain in the mandatory residential code, which was completed this year.

The Building Codes Division developed and adopted the Oregon Reach Code on July 1, 2011. This optional code provides a 15 percent to 20 percent energy efficiency improvement over Oregon’s mandatory commercial energy code. The residential provisions, scheduled for adoption Oct. 1, 2011, are anticipated to provide another 5 percent improvement over mandatory residential code standards.

“Our new mandatory residential energy code will save Oregon families over \$165 in energy costs per year. The Residential Reach Code will save \$250 above that, and energy savings in commercial buildings will be even bigger,” said Patrick Allen, acting administrator of the Oregon Building Codes Division.

The division was nominated by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

“The Oregon Building Codes Division has taken the development of the energy code extremely seriously and has already achieved major accomplishments, said David Cohan, senior manager of Codes and Standards at the Alliance. “They, and more broadly the State of Oregon, deserved recognition for all the great work that has been done.”

The review committee was composed of energy code professionals and experts from across the nation and nominees were scored in five categories: achievements, impact, innovation, collaboration, and passion.

The award is named after Jeff Johnson, the former program manager of the Building Energy Codes Program at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Johnson, executive director of New Buildings Institute, died on May 15, 2005, while mountain biking near his home in the Columbia River Gorge.

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