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February 11, 2021

Dear Chair Fahey , Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan, and members of the committee,

Rogue Climate is an environmental justice organization with offices in Phoenix and Coos Bay, Oregon. Our work includes collaborating with local governments to pass clean energy plans, developing energy efficiency programs that help people in Southern Oregon and the South Coast save money on energy bills and create jobs, running a fire relief center for our neighbors displaced by the Almeda Fire, and much more. We enthusiastically support the passage of House Bill 2842 and encourage you to vote yes on this bill.

Right now, the State of Oregon lacks a program to support critical home improvements for low-income families. Rogue Climate has done its best to mitigate this issue the last few years by partnering with Spark Northwest to implement group purchase ductless heat pumps (DHPs) projects in Jackson, Josephine, Coos, and Douglas counties. These projects have resulted in 233 DHP installations with 19 jobs created and over \$47,000 in annual savings, yet less than half the people who attended the workshops invested in getting a DHP.

In the participant survey for the Energize South Coast project, 50% cited high prices for why they did not install DHP.<sup>1</sup> These survey results demonstrate that there is a need and want for home upgrade assistance that increase community health, improve indoor air quality, provide affordable home heating and cooling, create local jobs, and are cost saving. We are proud to announce that Energize South Coast will be running again in Spring 2021 and with the passage of HB 2842, there will be statewide support to create healthy homes for everyone in Oregon.

As we work towards climate solutions, we need immediate fixes to people's homes to reduce energy and withstand the new weather patterns created by the crisis. While doing this our communities can also benefit by spending less money on heating and cooling, creating good local jobs in retrofitting and repairs, providing a refuge from increasingly bad outdoor air

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<sup>1</sup> *Energize South Coast Final Report*. Spark Northwest. December 2020.  
<[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&view=btop&ver=pmhccq8zb265#attid%253Datt\\_17765c3dc7efc3cb\\_0.2\\_17765c32d4a649f14cd2](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&view=btop&ver=pmhccq8zb265#attid%253Datt_17765c3dc7efc3cb_0.2_17765c32d4a649f14cd2)>



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quality, reducing burden on hospitals and families by supporting better respiratory health, and reducing the number of sick days for both adults and kids. That's why we're supporting the Healthy Homes Bill (HB 2842) to create a Healthy Homes program to invest in life changing home upgrades in low-income households.

Health starts at home.

Members of the committee, we urge you to support the Healthy Homes Bill, HB 2842, today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alessandra de la Torre".

Alessandra de la Torre, Energy Justice Organizer  
Rogue Climate