

Submitter: Susan Delventhal
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment, my name is Susan Delventhal and I am a resident of rural Yamhill County (2 miles south of Washington County). I am writing in support of SB 868, sponsored by Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Pam Marsh.

My husband and I own an older home (built in 1990) in a heavily wooded area of the Chehalem Mountains. We love our home and where we live but have become increasingly aware of how energy inefficient and polluting our home is. In the past we have been able to invest in improvements - more insulation, new Pella windows, and weatherization. We now live on a fixed income which has made it difficult to do major improvements related to the heating system of our home. We have no cooling system for our home. We heat in two ways: built-in electric space heaters and a wood burning stove; both environmentally unfriendly.

If we use only our space heaters during the winter our monthly bill is typically around \$535. If we use a combination of wood and electric it can reduce our electric bill by \$200 a month. Despite living very frugally, the cost of heating our home is financially difficult and we know we are contributing to creation of unhealthy air and the climate crisis. We would like to be better stewards of the planet and think that the passage of SB 868 would provide incentives, rebates, and other programs which would make it affordable for us (and others) to install a heat pump and make other energy efficient upgrades.

Oregonians want to part of the climate solution, but often do not have the ability to change or improve where they live, work, and recreate. It is time for Oregon to make a commitment to align energy efficiency programs with the state climate goals. Goals are worthless unless there are tangible actions to support them. I believe SB 868 contains solutions that will impact Oregon families and communities, create healthy homes, less pollution, and reduced financial burden on citizens.