

Submitter: Jodi Wilmoth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee,

My name is Jodi Wilmoth and I live in Bend . I support SB 868, 869, 870, and 871 because, as a retired health care professional, I am concerned about the health of my community as climate change impacts Oregon. Climate change keeps me up at night. In Central Oregon, wildfires are a huge concern. I sleep outside in the summer so that if a wildfire starts at night, I can know its coming. That's how much I worry about it.

I work in Oregon Spotted Frog conservation and the ongoing drought in our area is having a huge effects on their population. I know its a global problem but we must act locally to make a difference. We can do this in Oregon by limiting our use of fossil fuels by electrification of our cars and of our homes.

Homes and buildings are our first line of defense against climate harms, like extreme heat and wildfire smoke and the second largest source of climate pollution in Oregon. We'll gain better health, lower costs, and a safer climate by increasing climate resilience, with more insulation and sturdier windows and doors, and transitioning to clean electricity for heating and cooking. Let's take action in Oregon so all our homes and buildings are more resilient to protect us from climate harms. Let's make sure new construction is built smart from the start and remove barriers for Oregonians who want to improve current homes and buildings to waste less energy, protect us from climate extremes, and run on clean energy. We must prioritize helping those most harmed by climate extremes and fossil fuels.

Efficient, electrical heating and cooling is growing quickly in both popularity and availability. People are rapidly moving towards heat pumps, which both cool and heat homes and buildings for lower energy costs than gas furnaces, without heating up the planet. Oregon needs a lot more affordable housing, and other buildings like schools and hospitals, for our growing population. These should all be built smart from the start, healthier and more resilient against growing climate harms. Our first step should be to stop making the problem worse. It's more affordable to build all-electric with heat pumps, and more affordable to live and work in homes and buildings that waste less energy.

Heat pumps will keep us cozy in winter with up to 3 times lower bills than other heating sources, and cool us in the summer too. Gas is more expensive than we can afford and the costs are skyrocketing. NW Natural Gas– the largest fossil fuel

company in Oregon— increased rates more than 40% in 13 months. Meanwhile, the cost of renewable electricity, like solar and wind, is falling. Burning methane “natural” gas in our homes & buildings is bad for our health, our wallets, and our climate. It’s time for a transition. Methane is a fossil fuel. Burning it for heat and cooking is dangerously warming the climate and pumping air pollution into our communities, including inside homes, workplaces, schools, daycares and other places we spend our time.

Jodi Wilmoth, 52

Bend, OR