



Oregon Just Transition Alliance

February 22, 2023

To: Representatives Pam Marsh, Chair, and members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Re: HB 3166

Chair Pam Marsh, Vice Chairs Bobby Levy, Emerson Levy and members of the committee:

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3166, which aims to deploy energy efficiency dollars more equitably.

Over the last three years, our alliance has worked hard with communities across the state to pass critical legislation to make Oregon more resilient. It's been necessary in the face of a worldwide pandemic, historic wildfires, and unprecedented heat waves summer after summer that have taken the lives of hundreds of Oregonians. Elected officials and community-based organizations have recognized that buildings and homes are our first line of defense from climate and environmental harms.

OJTA serves as the Oregon convener for the National Green New Deal Network, we helped pass the Inflation Reduction Act. With both state and federal wins we find ourselves with too many programs and our well-meaning but complex government programs historically cater to English-speaking, able-bodied, digitally-literate citizens who have access to a computer and the internet.

OJTA is in support of HB 3166 because it “create[s] a single resource that provides information and technical assistance” to people who are interested in available federal and state energy efficiency incentives and programs. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) came out last year, and policy experts themselves struggle to parse out the details. HB 3166 will help remove barriers to access faced by our frontline communities because it will streamline rebate information into one hub that will provide technical assistance to those who need it.

With the support of this bill, The State Department of Energy will capture Oregonians who have been unable to access existing programs. What has been dubbed the “one-stop shop” for energy-efficiency programs will help our state agencies to successfully navigate and distribute this once-in-a-lifetime IRA funding to *all* Oregonians.

While there is a lot of work to do in the buildings sector to reduce climate pollution and make our communities more resilient, reducing barriers to energy efficiency spending is one clear pathway to that goal. We urge you to support HB 3166 for our climate and communities.

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa
Executive Director
Oregon Just Transition Alliance