

Submitter: KB Mercer
On Behalf Of: Self and Husband
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee;

My name is KB Mercer and my husband David Huffman and I live in SE Portland. We have a small home in Lents and although we are fully electric and proud of it, (including our "new" used Bolt) we are in the process of modernizing our electrical system and getting a heat pump, induction stove and smart water heater as soon as we can afford it. We are committed to doing the best we can for the environment, and the IRA tax refunds and state assistance programs are helping us make it happen. We are a low-income family in a low-income neighborhood and are rolling out these improvements as quickly as we can. My husband and I consider it an ethical priority.

I am writing today to support the policy package known as Building Resilience:
Healthy Heating and Cooling for All (SB 868)
Build Smart from the Start (SB 869)
Building Performance Standards (SB 870)
Smart State Buildings (SB 871)

Buildings are our state's second largest source of GHGs, and we must stop this pollution. I could go on to list all the reasons why these bills are beneficial, but I believe the benefits of this building policy package to both people and the environment are obvious, abundant, and undeniable. The truth is we should have implemented them a long time ago.

You have all experienced climate change. One three-day long heat dome is enough to sweep away the "malarkey" of delay and denial, and you are in an important position to do something about it. There is simply no good reason, absolutely none, to delay implementing every available strategy to limit GHGs as quickly as possible. Details are always important and we must get the bulk of them right, but no lagging component, or buggywhip manufacturer should be allowed to derail the forward motion of this policy package. Pass it, get the ball rolling, and we can make improvements it as we go.

Climate policy is not a matter of right and left, it is a matter of right and wrong. This package of bills needs to be passed, this session, and the majority of Oregonians that voted the members of this committee and this legislature into office are counting on you to get this done.

Please do the right thing and charge ahead on these four bills.

Thank you;

KB Mercer
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