

Submitter: Max Merrill
On Behalf Of: Oregon UU Voices for Justice
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and members of the Committee, my name is Max Merrill. I am a retired attorney living in Bend, Oregon.

I support SB 868, 869, 870 and 871 because, having lived in Bend for the past 52 years, I am so aware of what the explosive growth that has occurred in our community is having on our limited resources of water, clean air, and need for climate friendly buildings. We have a large houseless population and our local governments are having little success in battling this crisis.

Current building standards are simply unsustainable in the long run if we are to make any progress toward curbing climate change. Deschutes County is in a severe drought with no end in sight. Water tables are dropping and tension is growing among the competing users.

Housing costs have skyrocketed in the past 5 years and have almost completely eliminated the ability of lower and middle income citizens to be able to afford decent housing.

It is time now to act to take action to reduce building emissions which are the 2d largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon. We need to do whatever we can to promote non polluting sources of heat and power in our existing homes and all of those which are yet to be built.

With our drought continuing the danger to our existing structures from fire, smoke and other pollutants is greatly increasing.

Promotion of better insulation, using less methane producing fuels, more efficient windows and doors, better construction methods and smaller housing footprints will all be beneficial for combating rising CO2 production.

I want my children and my 5 year old Granddaughter to be able to remain in Bend. The only way to ensure this is as a possibility is to act now so that our area will remain livable as well as environmentally viable.

I would urge your support of these measures.

Thank you.

Max Merrill

Bend, Oregon