

Submitter: Linda Kelley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

My name is Linda Kelley, I volunteer with 350 Eugene. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 868. I applaud the committee work that has brought this bill and the other 3 Building Resilience bills to this point. Healthy Heating and cooling for all is crucial at this point in time due to our changing climate. Identifying the most effective ways to ensure our homes are a healthy and safe space, while at the same time bringing down our climate causing pollution is an important step towards bringing down the GhG emissions from buildings that are second only to transportation. Heat pumps are an exciting tool to enable this change. I am retired after working for non profits most of my life and have a modest social security. We luckily own a house we bought in 1990's at an affordable price. We have insulated our ceilings, walls and under the house ourselves, however a heat pump feels a little beyond our means as we have increasing medical expenses. If we are able to benefit from rebates that bring down the cost we will take that step gladly. We in Eugene have the benefit of very clean electricity with EWEB and at the same time are the target of a fierce fight from Northwest "natural" gas. We need state support to move forward with electrification and to fulfill Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance and Climate Action Plan. Eugene has many small older houses in which live people with modest incomes. This bill will support our community members, local building and HVAC companies, and help us do our part to contribute to a livable future for all. Thank you for your work and allowing me to submit testimony.