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Summary

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Outline

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Hello, Committee Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I live on the north Oregon coast and am writing to you in support of the Resilient, Efficient Buildings bills, SB 868, SB 869, SB 70, and SB 871. I urge you to pass these common sense measures as a first line of defense in our own homes and other buildings against the impacts of climate change and also to reduce energy costs and improve the health of Oregon families.

There is no valid reason not to move away from use of natural gas in homes and buildings. The methane is only adding to pollution and the warming, drying conditions in Oregon, it is also much more costly! The cost of using natural gas for heating is now skyrocketing and creating a real hardship for so many Oregon families here on the coast. Electric heat pumps will mean up to 3 x lower bills as the cost of renewable electricity, like solar and wind, is falling. Electric heat pumps provide the same heat in winter and will also cool our homes, schools, day cares, and work places in the summer.

The north Oregon coast also needs a lot more affordable housing. It only makes sense to build new homes and other buildings to be more energy efficient with more affordable energy costs, and that help protect our families and their health from pollution and other effects of climate change. The time to make these transitions is now. Our communities, families, and children are looking to you to take these simple steps to move Oregon forward towards a safe, livable future. I urge you to vote yes on SB. 868, SB 869, SB 870, and SB 871.

Laura Allen  
Seaside, Oregon