



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

March 16, 2023

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findlay
Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee

I am submitting this written testimony in support of SB 868 – 869 - 870 – 871, the Resilient Buildings package of measures.

My name is Angus Duncan. I represent the Natural Resources Defense Council on energy and environmental issues in the Pacific Northwest states. I am a former Member and Chair of the Northwest Conservation and Power Planning Council representing Oregon; and former Chair of Oregon's Global Warming Commission. I participated, many years ago, in developing the federal statute that led to designating energy efficiency as the priority electricity resource in the PNW, where it now ranks as the 2nd largest power resource in the region (and is closing in on hydro).

I also have relied upon energy efficient homes and electric heat pumps for heating (and occasionally, cooling) my personal residence for the last 30+ years, to my family's great satisfaction.

I desire that the advantages and low-cost energy supplies we have enjoyed be made available to all of Oregon's citizens, and especially to those who cannot afford more than minimum housing (but up to code).

I also labor every day to reduce contributions of Oregon and the PNW states to the accumulation of global greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere where it is degrading the planetary quality of life for my children and everyone else's as we look to their future. That future will not a happy and healthy one even if we were able to halt greenhouse gas emissions tomorrow, which we should but will not do. Even so, it is our obligation as adults with choices to choose the least destructive future for our children.

These four bills add up to a significant step in that direction for the very large share of emissions resulting from our occupation and operation of Oregon's residential and commercial building stock. I could wish the measures were more aggressive still since the

temporizing to gain supporters and votes will only make future climate conditions more onerous.

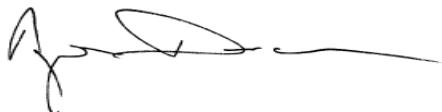
An earlier time in my professional life had to do with survival of another species – anadromous salmon and steelhead struggling against the many human-created barriers – dams, water quality and temperatures, habitat destruction, hatchery practices, etc. – to their survival. Our mantra of change and improvements was: “fast enough for the fish, slow enough for the people.”

In the same way we are today in a planet-wide contest between the accelerating effects of climate change expressed as fire, drought, flooding, snowpack decline, public health risks, and carrying on our backs those interests who are invested in the economic status quo and unwilling to look at the consequences for their own children as well as ours. Now we must effect change fast enough for the planet and slow enough for the human climate deniers and those whose immediate economic prosperity is tied to combustion of fossil fuels and release of destructive greenhouse gases.

We can only hope that efforts such as those reflected in these four bills, and replicated across the country and in countries around the world, will have sufficient scale and velocity to overcome the forces of inertia and indifference to the future.

On my own behalf, on behalf of my family, and on behalf of NRDC, I urge the early and overwhelming passage of these four bills.

Sincerely,



Angus Duncan

PNW Representative for the
Natural Resources Defense Council