

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Senate Bill 1530-3 (Support)

13 February 2024

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,

My name is Freddy Finney-Jordet; I use he/him. I'm a student from Bend, currently at Willamette University. Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony. **I'm writing in support of SB1530-3 and healthy homes.**

In Central Oregon, as with much of Oregon, we deal with smoke from wildfires every year. As if the red skies and toxic air weren't enough, not every home is equipped to keep the smoke out. For those with uninsulated or older homes, it's especially difficult. Additionally, without good cooling systems, many Central Oregonians are caught in a catch-22, stuck inside but not safe from the smoke *or* the heat. As I prepare to graduate and leave my college dorm, **I'm deeply concerned about the state of Oregon's housing safety as well as cost.**

That's why I'm excited about SB1530-3. The Healthy Homes program takes great strides to make homes safer places to live. Additionally, the program helps ease the housing crisis. **Healthy Homes will help people on the frontlines stay housed by lowering the cost of living, improving health and resilience, and reducing climate pollution.**

**I'm extremely grateful for the \$7.5 million to be invested in the Healthy Homes Repair Fund**, in the -3 amendment to SB1530. To me, that signals that this committee is taking this issue seriously and is taking admirable action. Respectfully, however, **I urge this committee to invest as much as possible into this program—at least \$15 million, total.** This additional money would ensure the effectiveness of the program and help people like me looking for safe, livable housing.

**I urge this committee to support SB1530, and specifically the -3 amendment, and to increase the invested funds to \$15 million.**

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Freddy Finney-Jordet (he/him)  
Student, Willamette University