

Submitter: Roberta Richards

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB868

I am a mother, a librarian, and the proud and happy owner of an all-electric home heated and cooled by a heat pump. I am writing today to ask you to support legislation that will achieve several essential goals – making our homes and buildings safer and more comfortable, and reducing our state's carbon emissions. Please support Senate Bills 868, 869, 870, and 871. As an information professional, I cannot bury my head in the sand and ignore the research telling us that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions drastically and rapidly to prevent unimaginable harm. Already we have warmed our climate about 2° F, and we Oregonians know the consequences of that first hand. Our once delightful summers have turned lethal, beset by fires, smoke and heat waves. If we don't change course rapidly, scientists project that we will warm our climate between 5 and 10° F during this century, the lifetime of our own children and grandchildren. I am proud that Oregon is working hard to be a leader in the fight against this dystopian future. Buildings are one of the leading sources of carbon emissions in our state, and I'm excited to learn that proposed legislation will reduce the emissions required to heat and cool our buildings, and make them more healthy, resilient and affordable at the same time. Our personal heat pump has improved our lives in so many ways. Now that we are not burning methane inside our home, we no longer need a carbon monoxide monitor because our air is cleaner and less potentially hazardous. We are using less energy overall, while our home is kept at a comfortable temperature. Best of all, it feels very good to know that we are doing our part to address climate change. All Oregonians deserve having barriers removed so they also can have this same experience.

Thank you for considering my testimony.