

I appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding HB2824. In 2020, air quality became more of an issue than ever with out of control wildfires in our state and a respiratory pandemic on the rise. This only exacerbated an existing public health crisis, especially in environmental justice communities where people of color and low income Oregonians suffer disproportionately from air pollution and attendant poor health outcomes. We do not have as much data as we should about indoor air quality during hazardous air quality events, but preliminary research indicates that many if not most Oregonians were struggling with hazardous air inside their homes during last year's wildfire events as well. These events will only increase in volume as we see the effects of climate change, especially as our forests have been restrained from their natural burn cycles. In some neighborhoods, air quality can be dangerous indoors even without wildfire events because of the cumulative impact of industrial pollution and diesel engines--on the roads, at nearby construction sites, distribution centers, train yards and other indirect sources of diesel pollution. I am writing to support the Healthy Homes bill. I believe that its passage will create more opportunity for Oregonians to seek refuge at home from poor outdoor air quality, resulting in less risk to public health, and ensure more disaster-resilient homes throughout our state.