

Submitter: Jonathan Clark
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Marsh,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. Heating and cooling produces roughly 20% of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the U.S. As the Climate Crisis continues to escalate, more heating and cooling is required. It is a vicious cycle that is exacerbating this worldwide crisis.

This bill would help reduce the human impact of Climate Change, providing more stability and comfort for people during extreme weather events. It would help lower the costs of heating/cooling in the long-term. It would also help reduce the Climate Crisis itself, lowering GHGs from heating/cooling over time. That's a win-win-win!

I am fortunate enough to own my own home. When I bought my house in Hillsboro almost nine years ago, A/C was a luxury, not a necessity. I would use the A/C as little as three days in an entire summer, just in the heat of the afternoon, being able to cool off the house in the evenings/mornings and rely on insulation to keep the house cool during the day. Those days are over.

Over the last few years, A/C has become a necessity. Last summer, we experienced weather in the high 80s throughout October! The year before, we experienced the Heat Dome—3 days of weather around 115 degrees Fahrenheit. I had to close up our house for two months straight, relying on A/C because it was either too hot outside to cool down at night, or the air quality was too poor, due to smoke from forest fires.

It is a sad fact that the Climate Crisis is affecting all of us in so many ways, endangering our water, our air, our homes, our livelihoods, our health, and our very lives. It is even sadder that this Climate Crisis was entirely preventable. We can't change the mistakes of the past, but we can act quickly to prevent some of the worst effects of Climate Change. This bill is one piece of the solution, and I fully support it.

I hope that you will go further in future bills and sponsor a comprehensive plan to bring all of Oregon's GHGs down to net-zero as soon as possible. We may not be able to solve the world's problems, but we can and must do our part in preventing Climate Chaos.