

Submitter: Sharon Hawks
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB868

Dear Committee Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Buildings are the second 2nd largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon. I support the Resilient Efficient Buildings Package, SB 868, 869, 870 and 871 to help reduce those emissions. The net impact of the bills taken together mean lower costs, less pollution, better health, safer communities and a more livable future for young Oregonians.

Extreme weather events are increasingly more common. Improving existing homes and buildings with more efficient doors and windows and creating new construction that is all electric, helps to protect us against extreme temperatures and wildfire smoke. We must remove barriers for homeowners who want to improve energy efficiency in their homes. It is more affordable for new construction to build all-electric and for us to live and work in homes and buildings that waste less energy. Heat pumps efficiently warm us in winter and cool us in summer. Natural gas is becoming more expensive and contributes to the warming climate and puts air pollution into our homes. Finally, low-income Oregonians and communities of color bear the brunt of a changing climate and they end up paying more for less efficient housing and higher utilities.

These bills address our changing climate in an efficient, balanced, and healthy way.
Please vote yes.