

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, and Vice-Chair Morgan and members of the Committee,

My name is Don Merrick. I live in Tigard. I'm 86 and really fussy about maintaining a good house ventilation system, dusting the house and vacuuming the rugs weekly. A good friend died of lung infection 15 years ago because of excessive mold build up in her condominium.

Here are some of the health benefits for low-income Oregonians that the Healthy Homes program would bring if HB 2842 passes:
Fewer sick days for children and adults

Reduced residential energy bills thanks to better insulated housing

New jobs created in home energy retrofits

Better shelter from wildfire smoke and air pollution

Reduced burden on healthcare systems thanks to better respiratory health

Home energy retrofits can be expensive, and renters often don't have a say in home upgrades. HB 2842 would make grants available to local governments (including tribal governments), housing authorities, nonprofits, and community groups so that low-income homeowners and renters alike receive the many health benefits of a well insulated home.

Thank you Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Noble and Williams, and members of the Committee, for supporting Healthy Homes, HB 2842.

Sincerely,

Don Merrick