

Submitter: Brett Baylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB869

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and Committee members —

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 868, 869, 870 and 871.

The natural gas footprint within Oregon continues to grow despite continuing research demonstrating its health impacts. Combustion of natural gas (95% methane) releases nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide in the home and threatens our public health — especially that of our children. Recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports indicate methane is responsible for at least 25% of our total global warming.

These bills will help in reducing the use of natural gas in our homes and buildings, and limiting the growing footprint of methane.

SB 868-871 attempt to address the four main complexities of making our homes and buildings safer, cleaner and greener:

- Barriers to the adoption of efficiency and source retrofits (i.e. lack of consolidated information, consumer lack of resources, limited existing workforce, etc.)
- Outdated building codes which fail to adopt newer, cleaner building technologies
- How to revamp existing and future large commercial buildings cost-effectively
- What additional resources and means can be used to weatherize current State buildings and plan future State buildings.

Funding of the Energy Efficiency Technologies Information and Training Fund is paramount for success.

I urge your strong support for these bills and for adequate funding.