

**Statement provided by David Heslam, Executive Director
Earth Advantage**

*March 4, 2013
HB2793*

Dear Rep. Jules Bailey, Chair, & Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Introduction

- Earth Advantage Institute is in support of the principle of utilizing energy scoring and disclosure as a mechanism for valuing energy efficiency in the residential marketplace.
- In addition, we believe that SB575 (authorizing the Construction Contractors Board to qualify contractors issuing energy scores) is a beneficial step that will support the structure of a future energy scoring and disclosure system.

History on this issue

- Earth Advantage Institute is a non-profit organization based in Portland.
- We work with the building industry to provide them with the tools to build better buildings.
- We have been involved with the development and deployment of residential energy scoring and disclosure programs since 2008.
- We began in 2008 by working with the Energy Trust to do research on the first Energy Performance Score pilot report.
- In 2010 we were part of a team that received DOE funding to develop and implement residential energy performance score and disclosure programs in communities across four states, Washington, Alabama, Virginia, and Massachusetts.
- We testified in front of the Senate Bill 79 task force in 2010 and we participated regularly at the task force meetings.
- We continue to work with state and local governments, utilities, and community energy programs like CEWO on the program and policy design as well as the technical aspects of energy scoring and disclosure.
- We are part of the technical working group in California (for the California Energy Commission) that will be working to update and enhance their policy around energy scoring and disclosure.
- Last year, we received funding from the Bullitt Foundation and Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to collaboratively develop a set of consistent technical standards for residential energy scoring and disclosure for the region.

Benefits of Energy Scoring and Disclosure

- A well conceived and delivered energy scoring and disclosure system provides benefits that go beyond just promoting residential energy efficiency, though that is an important benefit itself.

Energy scoring and disclosure programs:

- Improve market transparency, providing homebuyers with more complete information about the investment they are making in the home.

- Ensure that homebuyers are more fully aware of the true cost of the home they are considering for purchase. This will help to impact foreclosures.
- Provide Realtors with a tool for differentiating homes based on energy efficiency attributes (like a Walk Score would).
- Give homebuilders a standard, quantifiable method for evaluating construction practices.
- Give lenders a rigorous and accepted metric by which to consider homes for more advantageous energy efficient mortgages.
- Allow the market to quantifiably - and financially - value energy in a way that is not currently available.
- And therefore provide a market-based incentive to homeowners to engage in programs like those run by the CEWO and the Energy Trust, which result in jobs in the remodeling, home performance contracting, energy auditing, and material supplies industries.

Summary

In Earth Advantage's current work with the Bullitt Foundation and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance on setting clear and consistent administrative procedures and technical standards for energy scoring and disclosure regionally (a "PLAYBOOK" for the region), we have talked with a wide array of industry representatives locally, regionally, and nationally about the issue of energy scoring and disclosure. We would be happy to share with the Committee several written industry assessments that summarize the impacts, opportunities and needs around energy scoring and disclosure.

We offer our experience on this issue to the committee and look forward to working collaboratively with the committee, ODOE, and other interested parties in support of residential energy scoring and disclosure throughout Oregon.