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# WEATHERIZATION INDUSTRIES SAVE ENERGY

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## COMMENTS ON HB 2448

The Energy Incentives Program is an essential tool to acquire cost-effective energy conservation in rental housing. Rental housing is where the worst residential energy waste occurs and with occupants who can least afford it. Extending the sunset date will allow a this well-proven program to continue meeting energy demands in the lowest cost manner, reducing tenant reliance on utility bill assistance programs, and keeping hardworking Oregonians employed.

### Why Weatherize?

- Conservation is by a wide margin the least cost and lowest risk way to meet Oregon's energy needs.
- Rental housing stock typically represents the worst energy waste per square foot of living space of all buildings.
- The direct benefits of rental dwelling weatherization, which comprises the vast majority of the EIP weatherization projects, go to tenants thereby helping to keep them in their homes and off of utility bill assistance programs.

### What Would Happen Without the EIP?

- Without the EIP, almost no rental weatherization projects would happen. This is due to the simple fact that the owner gets no direct return on investment because property owners almost never pay the utility bills for rental units. In other words, tenants receive the benefits of weatherization while the investment is made by the property owner.
- Because the rental market is so extraordinarily difficult to access, the EIP must work in tandem with the rental weatherization programs of the Energy Trust of Oregon and the various utility programs. Without the combined effort of each, both will fail.

### How does EIP lead to Job Creation?

- Weatherization is labor intensive and directly creates large numbers of small business construction jobs spread throughout Oregon.
- Weatherization also creates jobs through large manufacturers and distributors of weatherization products like Jeld-Wen (Klamath Falls, Bend, & Stayton); Milgard (Tualatin); Cascade Windows (Tualatin); Service Partners (Tigard & Eugene); Cardinal IG (Hood River), etc.

Weatherization Industries Save Energy (WISE) is a trade association of weatherization and HVAC contractors and manufacturers. It is dedicated to promoting energy conservation through the services of its members, keeping conservation measures affordable, and providing policy-makers with the experience-based knowledge of business owners. For more information contact Jeremy Anderson at (503) 569-1381.