

From the desk of Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson



Commissioner Jules Bailey

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Vote yes on HB 3246

Certain improvements to a property can trigger a reassessment that can increase an owner's property tax. This disincentive can discourage worthwhile improvements that can reduce energy consumption. HB 3246 removes this disincentive for certain energy efficiency upgrades made to residential or commercial buildings.

HB 3246 creates a pilot program for properties within the city of Portland built prior to 2008. Property owners can apply for a 10-year property tax exemption for certain improvements prior to construction. This temporary exemption can tip the scales when it comes to an improvement project penciling out for many property owners.

The legislation sunsets the pilot program in 6 years. Multnomah County's assessment division will be able to report back to the legislature on the effects of the program, at which point the legislature can determine the merits of the program and its desire to apply the temporary exemption to properties statewide.

While there are many property tax exemption and abatement programs in statute, this pilot program is localized in jurisdictions willing to examine this idea and able to report back on the effects.

We urge an aye vote on HB 3246.