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# WEATHERIZATION INDUSTRIES SAVE ENERGY

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## COMMENTS ON HB 2074

The Small Premium Project (SPP) portion of 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 housing costs, and keeping hardworking Oregonians employed.

### Why Weatherize?

- The primary benefits of rental dwelling weatherization go to tenants thereby reducing their cost of living, helping to keep them in their homes, and off of utility bill assistance programs.
- Efficiency is 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.

### What Would Happen Without the SPP?

- Without the SPP, almost no rental housing 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 SPP 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 SPP 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.