
WEATHERIZATION INDUSTRIES SAVE ENERGY

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COMMENTS ON HB 2681

The Residential Energy Tax Credit is a great success story in Energy Efficiency. It has consistently helped homeowners make energy saving improvements to their homes while keeping utility rates low, creating jobs, and pushing markets to higher levels of performance and efficiency. Extending the sunset of this program will allow Oregon to continue to push the residential energy efficiency market forward.

RETC Has Started an HVAC Revolution

One example of the effects of the RETC is how it has transformed residential HVAC with the introduction of ductless heat pumps into Oregon. These units often reduce homeowners' heating and cooling costs by 65%. Just a few years ago ductless heat pumps were almost unknown in Oregon but, with the help of the RETC program, are now allowing many thousands of homeowners to heat and cool with a product that is relatively low cost and significantly more efficient than almost any other heating system available. Without the RETC, ductless heat pumps would still be a niche product, with RETC they are becoming widespread.

RETC Helps Lower Housing Costs

The typical Ductless Heat Pump is installed in a small, older home that was previously heated with baseboard electric heat. These homes often have most need of energy savings improvements and are usually occupied by families who might not be able to invest in energy (and money) saving technologies because of the upfront capital cost. The RETC allows these homeowners and renters to reduce their monthly housing costs, lessen their reliance on utility bill assistance programs, and instead spend their money in the local economy.

This is just one small example of how the RETC simultaneously reduces housing costs, pushes the energy efficiency market forward, keeps utility costs low, and creates jobs.

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.