



Oregon Hearth, Patio &  
Barbecue Association  
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March 30, 2017

To: Rep. Helm, Rep. Johnson, House Energy and Environment Committee

From: G. Harvey Gail, MBA, Executive Director, Oregon Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association.

RE: **HB 2748 Amendments, Support**

Our association represents 60 retail stores, installers and chimney sweeps across Oregon who sell and install biomass heating appliances and natural gas heaters (wood and pellet stoves).

OHPBA is **in support of HB 2748** with the amendments offered by Oregon DEQ:

- Clarifying the definitions for “masonry heater” and “certified pellet stove.”
- Clarify that the type of replacement devices will be determined by the Oregon DEQ. This provides some **flexibility** which was a point brought up in the hearing.
- Clarify that the grant funding program could also be used in areas that are currently not in violation, but have **risk** of exceeding the standard, based on recommendations from DEQ.

OHPBA believes Oregonians should have the right to heat their homes in a responsible way using the fuel source that is available to them and that fits their budget. In many rural Oregon towns, that source is cord wood, pellets and bio-bricks. These fuels must be used responsibly in EPA certified appliances using dry, seasoned wood and certified pellets. But many Oregonians in low income and rural areas **cannot afford new biomass heaters**, so they need financial assistance and the communities in which they live need financial support to help them move toward cleaner burning options. **HB 2748 will provide that support.**

Also, we advocate that only highly qualified installers should install wood stoves as represented by technicians certified by the **National Fireplace Institute**, the **Chimney Safety Institute of America** and the **Oregon Chimney Sweeps Association**.

### Questions?

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