



## **Goose Hollow Window Company Inc**

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Licensed Bonded Insured OCCB # 53631 est 1987

**Support HB 2074**

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Especially the Small Premium Project (SPP) portion of the Energy Incentives Program.

Supporting the extension of the historic weatherization tax credits is not only building on what very wise legislators did in 1979 but continuing a nationwide trend to support energy conservation. Oregon was a primary national leader and policy maker in 1979 and should be very proud our continued programs that are used as models for the rest of the nation.

There seems to be a tendency to reduce energy conservation in favor of 'renewables' such as wind and solar. However any engineer you speak with will tell you that you deal with pressurizing and sealing the envelope before you change a heating system. Consider the heating system as an extension of an energy source. **Energy Conservation is married to renewables but should not be divorced from them. Governor Brown's desire to support renewals and address climate change with reduction of greenhouse gases is just part of the total picture which has its basis in energy conservation.**

Weatherizing means keeping the heat in, in the winter, and the cool in during the summer. It means that the furnaces and air conditioners come on less resulting in extending the life of whatever heating/cooling system you have. It means keeping a home cool enough in summer not to need air conditioning.

Extending these tax credits for the multifamily housing market is critical as rents increase in the Valley and especially in the *Portland Metropolitan area. Our citizens not only deal with larger and larger portions of their income for housing but also have no control over the secondary costs of living-i.e. heat. EXCEPT to turn off the heat. We had one of the coldest winters in decades this year. And I quote: from the weather channel "The first two months of "meteorological winter" - December through January ( 2017)- ranked as the fifth coldest such period on record in Portland, the coldest since that aforementioned winter of 1978-1979."*

No one has to justify the need to heat a home. It is a health and safety issue. Especially for our more vulnerable populations of elderly / children and disabled. Owners of rental property do not have to invest in these properties as they can rent them as they are. So the SSP program combined with the Energy Trust of Oregon cash incentives has been refined enough to be an incentive tool to tip the balance between doing and not doing. One of my friends, who is 81 years old, whose apartment complex was weatherized last summer, had her heat bill of \$ 185 in January 2016 drop to \$ 88.00 January 2017. A huge savings. For an elderly person such as she whose primary income is SSI it is not joke to say it makes a big difference. Unfortunately it is not uncommon for renters to pay \$250 to \$350 a month for heat bills in un-weatherized apartments of under 900 square feet living space !

It is very short sighted to stop a program that has a tremendous foundation. If there are cracks in a foundation you do not get the wrecking ball out. You fix the cracks, lift up where needed, support and seal. It is no different than saving housing stock versus building new. Per square foot it is cheaper to retrofit/remodel. There are issues with the Oregon Dept of Energy that are part myth and part truth. **The programs that affect the multifamily market are different than wind and solar and these program management issues have been muddled together.**

It would be great to separate out these two programs permanently so our well run multifamily program can stand on its own merits.

**Please do not let the weatherization tax credit program sunset 2017.**

Mary D. Mann  
President  
General Contractor CCB 53631

*Mary Mann*