

April 11th, 2017

Re: Testimony on HB 3241

From: Sam Baraso, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Sustainability, Multnomah County

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Johnson and Power, members of the committee,

My name is Sam Baraso and I work in Multnomah County's Office of Sustainability.

I am responsible for the development of Oregon's first Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) Program under ORS 223.680. This program was authorized as part of the County's commitments to reduce our carbon emissions, spur economic development, and reduce business costs. While these are laudable goals, we recognize the limits of our reach in targeting only commercial, industrial and multifamily buildings.

House Bill 3241 will allow local governments to holistically address building resiliency where it matters most, our homes. By allowing single-family homeowners to not only address energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades, but also water efficiency and seismic upgrades, Oregon has the opportunity to create an important tool to support work that must happen across our communities.

In enabling property assessed clean energy programs (PACE), the state can step up and support renewable energy and energy efficiency goals through programs that are market-driven and require no investments from the state. And yet, these programs are about more than greenhouse gas emissions.

To date, across the US, there have been over 1000 commercial property assessed clean energy projects completed, valued at \$340 million dollars that have created approximately 4000 jobs.

Compare this to residential property assessed clean energy programs where there have been over 148,000 homes upgraded, generating \$3.7 billion dollars of economic activity, and creating over 36,000 jobs. That's over 10 times the economic activity.

While nearly all of the projects have been completed by our neighbor to the south, there is significant potential behind such a mechanism in Oregon. House Bill 3241, with -2 amendments, addresses the range of concerns raised regarding California's residential PACE programs while still offering local jurisdictions flexibility in designing their programs.

We urge this committee's support HB 3241 with -2 amendments.

I thank the committee for its time today.