

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians  
AirWorks, Inc.  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Alliance to Save Energy  
Allumia  
Alternative Energy Resources Organization  
Ameresco  
American Rivers  
Backbone Campaign  
Beneficial State Bank  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
Byrd Barr Place  
City of Ashland  
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment  
CleanTech Alliance  
Climate Smart Missoula  
Climate Solutions  
Community Action Center of Whitman County  
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho  
Community Action Partnership of Oregon  
Earth and Spirit Council  
Earth Ministry  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
eFormative Options  
Energy350  
EnergySavvy  
Energy Trust of Oregon  
ENGIE Services U.S.  
Enhabit  
Environment Oregon  
Environment Washington  
EQL Energy  
Forth  
Global Ocean Health  
Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School  
Homes for Good  
Home Performance Guild of Oregon  
Human Resources Council, District XI  
Idaho Clean Energy Association  
Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Rivers United  
League of Women Voters Idaho  
League of Women Voters Oregon  
League of Women Voters Washington  
Montana Audubon  
Montana Environmental Information Center  
Montana Renewable Energy Association  
Montana River Action  
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability  
National Center for Appropriate Technology  
National Grid  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Buildings Institute  
Northern Plains Resource Council  
Northwest EcoBuilding Guild  
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council  
NW Natural  
OneEnergy Renewables  
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA  
Opportunity Council  
Oracle  
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board  
Oregon Energy Fund  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association  
Pacific Energy Innovation Association  
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters  
Portland General Electric  
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action  
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union  
Renewable Northwest  
Save Our *wild* Salmon  
Seattle City Light  
Seinergy  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter  
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter  
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter  
Small Business Utility Advocates  
Smart Grid Northwest  
Snake River Alliance  
Snohomish County PUD  
Solar Installers of Washington  
Solar Oregon  
Solar Washington  
South Central Community Action Partnership  
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency  
Spark Northwest  
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners  
Sustainable Connections  
The Climate Trust  
The Energy Project  
Transition Missoula  
UCONS, LLC  
Union Of Concerned Scientists  
United Steelworkers of America, District 12  
Washington Environmental Council  
Washington Local Energy Alliance  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Washington State Community Action Partnership  
Washington State Department of Commerce  
Washington State University Energy Program  
YMCA Earth Service Corps  
Zero Waste Vashon



**NW Energy Coalition**  
*for a clean and affordable energy future*

January 30, 2019

Chair Fagan and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 608

Dear Senator Fagan and members of the committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing provide support for SB 608, a bill to improve tenant rights.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

This is the first time the NW Energy Coalition has submitted testimony on a bill regarding tenant and housing issues. We normally participate in issues related to energy, utilities and, particularly, energy efficiency. However, over the past couple of years, the Coalition has been investigating the link between energy efficiency upgrades in homes and housing stability.

Certain markets are being identified as underserved – those less likely to undertake energy efficiency projects. Underserved households lose out on projects that will reduce monthly bills and increase health and safety in the home. What we have found is that families living in rental properties are perhaps the most underserved by regional energy efficiency programs. This is sadly ironic, because these households are often the ones that have the most to

gain from the health benefits and financial savings that come with energy efficiency improvements. However, landlords are reluctant to make investments when tenants pay the utility bills and tenants are reluctant to invest in upgrades when they don't have security in their tenancy. That leads us to the problem of housing stability.

To address this underserved market, we must start with housing stability. Once we have secured greater housing stability for renters, we can begin to build programs that will help expand energy efficiency services to those homes. Senate Bill 608 will make progress on this important issue and we urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "G".

Wendy Gerlitz  
Policy Director