

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*

April 1, 2019

Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee

Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3094

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to express our support for HB 3094, which will establish state incentives for energy efficiency improvements to households across Oregon.

HB 3094 establishes a program, administered by the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services (OHCS), to provide incentives for energy efficiency actions by homeowners and affordable housing multifamily buildings across the state. The purpose of the Home Weatherization, Retrofit and Affordability incentive is to promote residential energy savings and increase health and safety in these homes. HB 3094 targets low and moderate-income households and households in rural areas across the state that most need this incentive.

The state dollars made available through the HomeWRAP program will compliment existing low income and affordable housing programs at OHCS to make those dollars go farther and also expand assistance to moderate-income households that fall above the income cap for low-

income programs (about \$51,000 for a family of 4).

Beyond low-income programs, these residential incentives will serve a critical role in some rural areas as the only incentive for energy efficiency. Rural areas of the state were identified as highest priority areas by the Ten Year Plan for Reducing the Energy Burden in Oregon Affordable Housing:

*The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently published a report, “The High Cost of Energy in Rural America: Household Energy Burdens and Opportunities for Energy Efficiency” that found that the share of income rural households spend on energy is significantly higher than their non-rural counterparts’ expenditures. It is also important to note that rural households are more likely to use fuel oil or propane for heating.*

HomeWRAP investments will leverage additional dollars to save Oregonian’s money on their utility bills, improve indoor air quality in homes and workplaces throughout the state, enhance economic activity and support jobs, and achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions. And, the incentives are tied to energy savings, ensuring accountability and results.

### **Energy, Health and Financial Savings**

The program will save homeowners and renters of affordable housing money by encouraging efficient use of electricity and natural gas. According to the US Department of Energy, the average weatherization project saves a homeowner \$350 per year on their energy bills, however, a recent study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory found that the potential in Oregon is \$614 for the average household. Among low-income households alone there are \$114 million dollars in total energy cost savings waiting to be unlocked across the state<sup>1</sup>. Total annual savings from all existing residential housing available in Oregon is \$664 million<sup>2</sup>.

Furthermore, the value of health benefits has been shown to be up to 10 times that amount in reduced health care expenditures. Recent studies by the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative show healthcare cost savings as much as \$3000/year

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<sup>1</sup> <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/170709>

<sup>2</sup> <https://resstock.nrel.gov/factsheets/OR>

per household.

## **Jobs and Economic Development**


Energy efficiency is an important component of our state economy. Investments in energy efficiency create and sustain a workforce of over 42,000 jobs statewide; 70% of these are small businesses with 11 employees or fewer. Investments in energy efficiency also result in financial savings that are spent elsewhere in our economy, resulting in an increase to Oregon's gross domestic product of over \$350 million/year.

## **Least Cost Greenhouse Gas Reductions**

By stimulating efficient use of electricity and natural gas in our build environment, this program will lead to significant greenhouse gas reductions that are essential to meeting our state GHG reduction goals. Saving energy use in buildings is one of the least cost ways to achieve emissions reductions – often with a negative abatement cost due to the financial savings over the life of these measures. The residential energy efficiency opportunities in the state of Oregon would reduce carbon emissions equivalent to the output of about 885,000 cars<sup>3</sup>.

Investments that improve the efficiency, safety, health and livability of our existing homes across the state provide a multitude of benefits. We encourage your support for HB 3094.

Sincerely,



Wendy Gerlitz  
Policy Director

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<sup>3</sup> <https://resstock.nrel.gov/factsheets/OR>