



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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April 2, 2019

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environment
900 Court Street NE, HR D
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3094

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports HB 3094 to help low- and moderate-income Oregon families save money, improve community health and resilience, and create jobs through energy efficiency retrofits.

With the loss of Oregon's Residential Energy Tax Credit and dramatically reduced utility-sector incentives, home energy contractors are increasingly at risk of losing living wage jobs. Besides creating jobs, the energy efficiency industry contributes positively to Portland's local economy by keeping money saved on utility bills circulating in the community. This "multiplier effect" is critically important as we transition to a clean energy economy.

In 2016, Portland City Council adopted the Home Energy Score program, which requires home sellers to provide transparent information about the energy efficiency of their home to prospective buyers. Addressing energy efficiency within homes is essential to achieving our climate goals. Data from the first year of Home Energy Score reveal that there are substantial opportunities remaining within Portland's housing stock to perform retrofits that can both decrease carbon emissions and cut costs for residents. Among almost 9,000 homes that received a Home Energy Score on a scale from 1 to 10, the average score was 4.6. Homes with the lowest energy efficiency scores could be saving nearly 30 percent annually on their energy bills. **Financial incentives and assistance enabled by HB 3094 will make it easier for households to invest in these long-term energy improvements.**

Energy efficiency also is a cost-effective way to make Oregon's housing stock more resilient. Homes that have been weatherized and have had energy retrofits will be better equipped to respond to a changing climate, ultimately helping to build more stable and resilient communities.

The City of Portland respectfully urges your support for HB 3094. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Crim, Chief Sustainability Officer



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