



Oregon Hearth, Patio &  
Barbecue Association  
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April 2, 2019

To: Rep. Ken Helm, Chair House Committee on Energy and Environment

From: G. Harvey Gail, MBA, Executive Director, Oregon Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association.

RE: **HB 3408 Support**

Our association represents 60 retail stores, installers and chimney sweeps across Oregon who sell and install biomass heating appliances and natural gas heaters (wood and pellet stoves).

OHPBA is **in support of HB 3408:**

- The wood stove industry supported the *Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund* when it was formed in 2017 but were disappointed that it did not receive funding then. **Funding now is an important way to ensure this program starts making a difference.**
- We feel the **amount in HB 3408 of \$500,000 should be higher** (see SB 1031) to have a greater impact, but this amount when combined with creative community efforts and if **leveraged with other funding options can start making a difference now** in lowering PM 2.5 particulate levels in many communities.
- Many Oregonians in low income and rural areas **cannot afford** to change out uncertified biomass heaters to certified wood, pellet gas and electric heating options, so they need financial assistance.
- Many communities need financial support to help them provide creative solutions to move their citizens to cleaner burning options for home heating. **HB 3408 will provide that support.**

OHPBA believes Oregonians should have the right to heat their homes in a responsible way using the fuel source that is available to them and that fits their budget. In many rural Oregon towns, that source is cord wood, pellets and bio-bricks. These fuels must be used responsibly in EPA certified appliances using dry, seasoned wood and certified pellets.

Also, we advocate that only highly qualified installers should install wood stoves as represented by technicians certified by the **National Fireplace Institute**, the **Chimney Safety Institute of America** and the **Oregon Chimney Sweeps Association**. However, this requirement could be included in rules related to local stove replacement programs.

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