

OREGON



PHYSICIANS  
FOR SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

2 April 2019

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Oregon House Bill 3094

Guided by the values and expertise of medicine and public health, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival.

We enthusiastically support the passage of House Bill 3094 and encourage you to refer this bill out of committee and onward on a pathway to passage.

Oregon PSR recognizes the health impacts of poorly insulated homes and high energy burden, the percentage of a household's monthly income that is spent on utility bills. In our engagement in the landslide victory of Portland Clean Energy Initiative ballot measure campaign in 2018, we documented some of the health impacts experienced by Portlanders in substandard housing and outlined the health benefits of energy efficiency retrofits and energy savings. You can access that full report at our website:

[https://www.oregonpsr.org/report\\_health\\_equity\\_pcei](https://www.oregonpsr.org/report_health_equity_pcei)

House Bill 3094 will go a long way towards remedying the gap in state resources to incentivize home weatherizations caused by the sunset of the renewable energy tax credit. HB 3094 not only supports small businesses throughout the state, it also ensures these energy savings benefits are available to low and moderate income Oregon families. By supporting contractors in driving down the costs of weatherization projects, HB 3094 will help to maximize the social, environmental, and health benefits of home weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits.

Upcoming funds from the Portland Clean Energy Fund and existing resources from the Energy Trust of Oregon do not cover the needs of the entire state, including some of the most vulnerable low-income residential ratepayers in rural parts of the state. That's part of the reason why we should pass HB 3094--In rural parts of Oregon (outside of Energy Trust territory), programs like HomeWRAP are often the only incentives available to help families toward these benefits.

In order to take a step in the right direction for public health equity and responsible energy burden, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility urges a "yes" vote on House Bill 3094. We thank this bill's cosponsors as well as the Northwest Energy Coalition for their work on this bill.

Damon Motz-Storey, Clean Energy Organizer, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility



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