

Testimony to the House Energy and Environment Committee on House Bill 3094

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**Jana Gastellum, Program Director, Climate
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council support HB 3094.

Energy efficiency has long been a critical tool for reducing the environmental impacts of energy, reducing energy costs, and improving building comfort. While Oregon has been an energy efficiency leader in the past, we have recently lost programs that extend the benefits of energy efficiency improvements to residents throughout Oregon.

In the past, Oregon had statewide incentives that promoted energy efficiency. These residential and small business incentives were used in every county in Oregon. As housing affordability becomes more urgent, efficiency remains a critical tool for reducing household costs. But households need support to get efficiency measures—like insulation, weather stripping, and furnace upgrades--put in place.

Efficiency improvements can also improve indoor air quality and lead to improved health for building residents. Efficiency improvements have been linked to lower rates of school and work absenteeism in a study done by the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative.

The HomeWRAP bill targets lower- and moderate-income Oregonians that could benefit the most from energy efficiency incentives. It will also importantly support small business jobs throughout Oregon. With the previous loss of statewide incentives, contractors are at risk of losing jobs, particularly in rural parts of the state.

The bill will support reducing climate pollution and improving livability. **We strongly urge support of HB 3094.**