

March 29, 2019

House Energy & Environment Committee 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3094, to help low and moderate income Oregon families save money, improve health and stability, and support small businesses through energy efficiency retrofits

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 3094.

Good Energy Retrofit is an woman-owned, residential energy efficiency contractor that has performed retrofits on hundreds of homes improving energy efficiency, affordability, health-related improvements and other upgrades.

Small businesses that specialize in energy efficiency upgrades are struggling currently. Homeowners are more interested in new countertops than insulation lately. The loss of Residential Energy Tax Credits and low utility incentives have had a big impact on our industry.

Additionally, there is a large sector of our society, low and moderate-income households, who are not able to access the services that I provide. They are disproportionately impacted by high utility bills and unaffordable housing costs, and most in need of home energy efficiency, health and safety upgrades.

HB 3094 not only supports small businesses throughout the state, like mine. It also ensures these energy savings benefits are available to low and moderate income Oregon families.

And there are other powerful co-benefits the state will get from the multiplying impact of this program. These residential improvements not only help create local jobs — they also improve the health, value and durability of our housing stock, and ultimately help build more resilient communities. At the same time, families reduce their energy bills, and many see reductions in health-related costs (e.g. asthma costs) due to improved air quality and moisture management in their homes. These benefits result in improved affordability and housing stability for Oregon's lower income families. Finally, improved health and stability means fewer school and work days missed — a direct impact for families wrestling with day-to-day challenges.

Without HB 3094, Oregon will fail to capture these smart, investment-multiplying benefits of energy savings, job creation, affordability and health enhancements. I strongly support HB3094.

Sincerely,

Kris Grube, Owner Good Energy Retrofit kris@gerpdx.com