

Co-chairs Lieber and Marsh, vice-chairs Findley and Owens, and members of the task force,

My name is Adah Crandall, I am 16 years old and a fellow with Our Climate Oregon.

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today in support of the important work of the Resilient, Efficient Buildings task force. As a young person growing up in the midst of a climate crisis, it is extremely important to me that action is taken to reduce emissions at every level of government. Your task force has the unique opportunity to make meaningful progress on climate by ensuring that the future of Oregon's buildings are clean and safe.

From drinking lead-contaminated water in my elementary school to suffering toxic air pollution at my middle school due to incorrectly installed ventilation, I have witnessed time and time again the impacts of buildings that do not prioritize health and safety. In the face of the climate crisis, it is crucial now more than ever that our buildings are resilient and ready to rise to the challenge of stopping the climate crisis.

Of the proposals currently being considered by the task force, I, on behalf of Our Climate Oregon, want to express support for policies to:

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- Make all new construction more efficient and resilient to climate harms, by strengthening the base building code for Oregon.
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- Tackle emissions in existing buildings by ramping up programs and incentives for weatherization and electric heat pumps, particularly for low income families and businesses.
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- Improve indoor air quality and health outcomes and support our climate goals by reducing methane gas use in homes and buildings.
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- Support more resilient affordable housing for folks who are unhoused or otherwise more vulnerable to climate harms.
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Supporting these things will put you on the right side of history when it comes to reducing emissions. Young people like myself who are not old enough to vote spend hours of our free time fighting for climate action, but ultimately, many of the decisions that will affect our futures fall in the hands of people like you.

Stopping the climate crisis will require us to act boldly, to transform every aspect of our society to begin prioritizing our communities over corporate interests. Supporting the transition to a decarbonized buildings sector is just the beginning, and my generation is counting on you to propel this progress forward.

Best,

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Adah Crandall
(she/her)
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