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Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient Buildings

Public Comment on November 29 Task Force Meeting

Submitted by Laura Tabor, Climate Action Director

Co-Chairs Lieber and Marsh and Members of the Task Force:

We write to express support and appreciation for the work of the Resilience Efficient Buildings Task Force. The process has provided many opportunities for input from Task Force members and the public and offered valuable modeling which explores the pathways Oregon can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector while delivering benefits to communities across our state. We are grateful for the tremendous effort you as co-chairs, taskforce members, LPRO staff, and the SSG modeling team have put into making this process educational, transparent, and responsive to member feedback.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon (TNC) is a science-based, non-partisan organization with 80,000 supporters and members in every county. Based in communities around the state, we manage lands and waters in varied ecosystems and partner with tribes, ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. Addressing the climate change crisis is a core component of TNC's work to create a world where people and nature can thrive, and we strongly believe that Oregonians have a responsibility to enact policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help our communities adapt to climate change.

Looking ahead, the broad support for energy efficiency, heat pumps, and other decarbonization policy concepts documented in the draft Task Force report is encouraging and demonstrates that Task Force members recognize the importance of efficiency and electrification, which together can help decarbonize buildings and complement the role of alternative fuels in reducing emissions from hard-to-electrify applications. The policies analyzed through this process provide great opportunity to ensure the state meets both its clean electricity and Climate Protection Program goals. We hope to see these concepts move forward in the 2023 session to put policy building blocks in place that help Oregon achieve its existing policy goals in the most effective and equitable way.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.