

Darlene Chirman
Great Old Broads for Wilderness,
Cascade Volcanoes Chapter
7017 SE Martins Street
Portland OR 97206
805-455-3541



Oregon House Housing Committee
Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Members of Committee
Cc: Representative Kahn Pham

I am writing in support of House Bill 2842, and Amendment 3, the Healthy Homes bill. The Healthy Homes Repair Fund that will be established if this bill passes is much needed in support of Oregon's vulnerable families and communities.

I watched the hearing today of the Housing Committee, and listened to testimony of a bill sponsors, Representative Marsh and Representative Pham, who is my own representative. I had planned to speak, but was unable to unmute and give verbal testimony in support of the bill. The testimony from Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and VERDE both demonstrate the need for the home repair fund for our low-income residents, but also demonstrates that organizations already serving our vulnerable populations could assist in implementation.

The Amendment extends the covered "Repair and rehabilitation" to "Improvements that make homes more fire resistant". The bill as introduced already can fund the installation of a smoke filtration system or air purification system, crucial when wildfire smoke impairs air quality. The higher incidence of asthma in our low-income residents may be associated with unhealthy living conditions, which the Healthy Homes program can address. The Amendment also requests \$20,000,000 to provide initial funding for the program.

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness is focused primarily on forest protection; we see a connection in appropriately addressing protection of residents and communities from wildfires, and reducing pressures to thin or log backcountry forests in ineffective efforts to protect people and structures from wildfires. The Healthy Homes program fulfills a vital aspect of wildfire response.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB2842 and Amendment 3.

Sincerely,

Darlene Chirman

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