

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, and Vice-Chair Morgan and members of the Committee,

My name is Don Merrick. I live in Tigard. I'm 86 and really fussy about maintaining a good house ventilation system, dusting the house and vacuuming the rugs weekly. A good friend died of lung infection 15 years ago because of excessive mold build up in her condominium.

Here are some of the health benefits for low-income Oregonians that the Healthy Homes program would bring if HB 2842 passes:

- Fewer sick days for children and adults
- Reduced residential energy bills thanks to better insulated housing
- New jobs created in home energy retrofits
- Better shelter from wildfire smoke and air pollution
- Reduced burden on healthcare systems thanks to better respiratory health

Home energy retrofits can be expensive, and renters often don't have a say in home upgrades. HB 2842 would make grants available to local governments (including tribal governments), housing authorities, nonprofits, and community groups so that low-income homeowners and renters alike receive the many health benefits of a well insulated home.

Thank you Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Noble and Williams, and members of the Committee, for supporting Healthy Homes, HB 2842.

Sincerely,

Don Merrick