

House Bill 2475: The Oregon Energy Affordability Act

January 28, 2012

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2475: The Oregon Energy Affordability Act.

I recently heard testimony from a public school teacher who said that online teaching had allowed her a new view of her students, opening a window into each student's home environment. In those homes, she reports, some pupils attend online classes in gloves, hats and coats, and they shiver as they participate. The cold in their homes makes it difficult to concentrate on lessons.

COVID-19 has exposed the inequities in our society. This bill is not just a piece of paper. It can make the difference between children being warm in their beds at night, or warm enough to concentrate on schoolwork.

I know you see many competing needs, and budgets are not bottomless, but making sure our children's basic needs are met is critically important. We are the wealthiest country in the world. Surely, we can ensure that our children, the next generation of Americans, don't face frigid temperatures in their own homes.

I urge you to do everything in your power to make sure this worthy legislation is supported.

Thank you,
Nadene LeCheminant
Salem, Oregon