

Submitter: Chris O'Neill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and honorable members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Buildings are the second largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon after transportation, and there much that can be done to reduce pollution in our atmosphere, reduce the risk of indoor air pollution, and reduce long term costs to families and business owners. I support the Resilient Efficient Buildings Package, SB 868, 869, 870 and 871 to help reduce those emissions.

Wildfire smoke has become a major annual health hazard where I live in the south end of the Willamette Valley. Last summer the wildfires south and east of Oakridge forced people to leave their homes as the smoke became more and more hazardous day after day through the long summer. I live close to the Lane County Fairgrounds where volunteers helped refugee ranchers and their livestock survive the smoke disaster.

We must do something to reduce future risks. Improving existing homes and buildings with more efficient doors and windows and creating new construction that is all electric, policies promoted in these bills, will help protect against extreme temperatures and wildfire smoke.

Furthermore, we must remove barriers for homeowners who want to improve energy efficiency in their homes. It is more affordable for new construction to build all-electric and for us to live and work in homes and buildings that waste less energy. Heat pumps efficiently warm homes in winter and cool in summer, while the cost of fossil gas is becoming more expensive and contributes to the warming climate that makes wildfire events more likely.

We need public policy to drive the change that assures the quality of our air, our water, and our soils upon which the survival of future generations depend. These bills address our changing climate in an efficient, balanced, and healthy way.

Please vote yes.

Thank you.