

March 14, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: The Board of the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network

Re: Support for low carbon building bills:

[Healthy Heating and Cooling for All \(SB 868\)](#)

[Build Smart from the Start \(SB 869\)](#)

[Building Performance Standards \(SB 870\)](#)

[Smart State Buildings \(SB 871\)](#)

To Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Committee,

We represent the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network, a non-profit, all volunteer group located in Lake Oswego, dedicated to promoting sustainable practices. Thousands of local citizens attend our events and work on projects here in our city. We work with the city government to evaluate new buildings, like our aquatic center and wastewater treatment center and advocate for renewable energy. We work with our school district which is building efficiently and looking at electric school busses.

Residents of Lake Oswego are alarmed by the extreme weather events we have experienced here including record heat surges and summer fires. Several recent studies carried out by our city government and by the chamber of commerce show that climate change and sustainability are top concerns. Our citizens are taking action to transition to a low carbon life – our city has the most per-capita electric vehicles, and there is great interest in home electrification. Many of us have already transitioned to an all-electric lifestyle. We want to do our part.

We know that buildings are a top source of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane, which is more potent than carbon. A key strategy is to build electricity into buildings as they are constructed; it will save money in the long run. These laws will provide incentives for builders to construct low greenhouse gas buildings.

From our experience we know that transitioning to electricity in existing homes can be complicated and expensive. These proposed laws will make it easier for both residents and businesses to go electric with heat pumps, induction stoves and heat pump water heaters. They will promote energy savings through insulation and smart building practices.

The proposed bills will change the marketplace to inspire builders, retailers, contractors and others to cater to a low carbon future. As more citizens show interest, we will see innovation, investment and job growth in Oregon.

Please vote for SB 868, SB 869, SB 870 and SB 871. While individual business owners and home owners need to take action, we will benefit from direction and subsidies from our state to pave the way, so that we can meet the critical deadlines to reduce our exposure to climate change.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network

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