

Senators Janeen Sollman and Lynn Findley, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment;

Re: SB 868, SB 869, SB 870, and SB 871 - Resilient Buildings Policy Package

Oregonian:Carolynn F. Kohout, Hillsboro, Senate District 15

All four are vital to meeting Oregon's commitment to decrease the effects of climate change/chaos, especially rural, low-income, and BIPOC, asthma susceptible- and coping- people. My partner is having an increasingly hard time with asthma – is out of commission for our home and yard maintenance once the heat hits. I will be painting and maintaining our plants I am a seasoned caregiver who observes the struggles of my consumers living on limited incomes, or none, homes not withstanding heat and cold temperatures: no double-pained windows, wall leaks of cold, water..., leaky water faucets, electrical outlets not working.... Facts: Wildfire smoke and the second largest source of climate pollution. Buildings: The 2nd largest source of carbon emissions; Energy consumption: responsible for nearly 35% of annual greenhouse gas emissions; Embodied Carbon (emissions from the manufacture, transport, installation, and disposal/recovery of construction materials) accounts for 8% of carbon emissions; Water heating make up 64% of an average residential building's energy use; Older buildings, with higher energy bills and more pollution, face more barriers to efficiency upgrades, yet are an essential opportunity to meet Oregon's climate change goals. Children in homes with gas stoves have a 42% increased risk of asthma symptoms. Burning methane gas inside homes can do similar damage to our health as second hand smoke. Rural, low-income, and BIPOC Oregonians are more likely to be without cooling and efficient heating, and facing disproportionate energy cost burdens. NW Natural Gas, the largest fossil fuel company in Oregon, increased rates more than 40% in 13 months. The cost of renewable electricity, like solar and wind, is falling. Burning gas for heat and cooking: dangerously warms the climate and pumps air pollution inside homes, workplaces, schools, daycares.... The People of Oregon need: Pollution and energy waste cut; lower utility bills; a safer climate by increasing climate resilience; Resilient, efficient buildings: better health, lower costs, less pollution, safer communities, and a more livable future for young Oregonians; More insulation, sturdier windows and doors, layers of insulation, a transition to clean electricity for heating and cooking, with heat pumps; More affordable housing and buildings: schools and hospitals for our growing population, built smart from the start, wasting less energy. SB 868: Essence: Align state incentives and other programs related to home upgrades and efficiency with new Federal incentives; Maximize Oregon's allocation: use a One-Stop-Shop system for low-income and environmental justice communities. SB 869: Essence: Align Oregon's Building Codes with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals; Codify the energy efficiency targets within Executive Order 20-04; Require the Building Codes Division to maintain an alignment with national professional industry standards. SB 870: Essence: Enact a Building Performance Standard (BPS) to require large commercial buildings to meet energy and emissions reduction targets over time from a flexible menu of improvements. Provide financial incentives and technical assistance for building owners taking early

action to meet these standards before they are required to be met. SB 871: Essence: Ease the ability of public buildings to fund energy efficiency and retrofit projects. Align the cost-effectiveness criteria under performance contracting with state statutes, rules, and efficiency and emissions goals. Allow Oregon to adopt statutes/rules to those that have proved impactful in other jurisdictions. Reduce barriers to third party financing of public buildings to account for the energy savings of the whole building and throughout the life of energy efficiency upgrade components. These bills are a critical step to address climate change, affordable energy and housing, and public health issues. Please vote 'Yes'. Thank you for your time.