

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Jeanne Roy, 6805 SW 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97219
Date: March 14, 2023
Subject: SB 868, 869, 870, and 871

I support SB 868, 869, 870, and 871 recommended by the Resilient Efficient Task Force.

As an environmental educator, I am aware that energy consumption in buildings is responsible for nearly 35% of annual Oregon greenhouse gas emissions and that most of a residential building's energy is for space and water heating (64%). My husband and I have been fortunate to be able to pay for implementation of energy audit recommendations to make our home fairly tight and energy efficient. However, many Oregonians are living with outdated, inefficient, and carbon-intensive heat sources.

Right now, too many of our homes and commercial buildings are contributing to the harms of climate change--like extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and snow in March. Our first step should be to stop making the problem worse. It's time for the State to address the impact of building energy on climate change--to make sure that new construction is built smart from the start and to remove barriers for Oregonians who want to improve current homes and buildings to waste less energy.

These bills will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector in these ways:

- Aligning energy efficiency programs with state climate goals and setting a heat pump target for the state.
- Aligning Oregon's Building Codes with the state's GHG reduction goals and directing the Building Codes Division to evaluate and report on Oregon's current progress toward achieving climate goals for new residential and commercial buildings and options for achieving those goals and to consider both energy efficiency and the embodied carbon in construction materials.
- Establishing a Building Performance Standard for large commercial buildings to reduce their energy use and climate emissions over time. Older buildings face more barriers to efficiency upgrades but are an essential opportunity for reductions if the State is going to meet its emissions targets. The standard would be modeled after Washington State's standard, which passed in 2019.
- Removing barriers to accelerate energy retrofits and upgrades in state buildings.