

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

My name is Emily Platt and I live in Portland, OR. I am writing in support of SB 868, 869, 870, and 871.

In recent years Oregonians have endured a series of relentless climate-change fueled crises, from devastating wild-fires, heat domes, ice-storms, and drought. The bills enhancing the climate resilience of buildings are critically needed for a number of inter-related reasons.

First, these bills will enable the transition of buildings to clean energy so that the State can meet its emission goals and do its part to address global warming. At present buildings are the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in Oregon.

Second, this bill will protect low-income and front-line communities from extreme weather events by providing items such as heat-pumps that efficiently heat and cool homes, as well as run on electricity that is rapidly decarbonizing.

Third, these bills will improve public health since a building powered entirely by electricity will have healthy indoor air thus preventing respiratory ailments such as asthma.

Fourth, energy efficient homes powered by clean electricity will be more economical to heat and cool, benefitting low-income communities. Geopolitical events such as the war in Ukraine have caused Northwest Natural Gas to raise its prices 40% in the last 13 months, while renewable energy prices are falling.

In 2021 my household converted to all electric. We wished that we had done it sooner - our electric heat pump and other electric appliances are functioning admirably and we also feel that we are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are lucky in that we could afford it; this is not possible for every household.

Every Oregonian deserves to have safe, efficient and healthy shelter from extreme climate events now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Emily Platt