

Submitter: Lauren Fraser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee, my name is Lauren Fraser and I am a parent and homeowner in Bend. I have worked on electrification and energy efficiency for the last few years. Buildings are the second largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon and the largest source of emissions in Bend. We need to take action now to meet our climate goals.

Climate impacts, like extreme heat and wildfire smoke, continue to get worse. We need to ensure that our new buildings and building upgrades are resilient and efficient. We'll gain better health, lower costs, and a safer climate by increasing climate resilience, with more insulation and sturdier windows and doors, and transitioning to clean electricity for heating and cooking.

Efficient, electrical heating and cooling is growing quickly in both popularity and availability. People are rapidly moving towards heat pumps, which both cool and heat homes and buildings for lower energy costs than gas furnaces, without heating up the planet. We have upgraded our home to have a heat pump and heat pump water heater and are saving money, more comfortable, and no longer creating pollution by burning fossil fuels to heat and cool our home.

We also need a lot more housing, and especially affordable housing, in the state. These homes should be built smart from the start. It's more affordable to build all-electric with heat pumps and more affordable to live and work in homes and building that waste less energy. This is a win-win for Oregonians.

These bills are a critical step for addressing climate change, affordable energy and public health. Please vote Yes.