

Submitter: Trevor Weltzer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB870

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee, my name is Trevor Weltzer and I live in Portland. I am an architect licensed in Oregon and Washington and hold a Living Futures Accreditation through the International Living Future Institute with a primary focus on sustainable schools.

I am writing to lend cautious, measured support to the SB 868, SB 869, SB870 and SB871 packages, pending final language. This is a complicated topic that does not lend itself well to generalized solutions - or we would have already solved climate change! Some building-level improvements may happen in building and energy codes, while others must be resolved upstream with carbon emission limits for manufacturers.

From the architectural perspective, I see three distinct areas of focus:

On operational energy, where we could make a substantial impact by disallowing fossil fuels as an energy source in new construction (ie, natural gas). Thermal performance values for windows should scale more directly with percentage of glazing.

In embodied carbon, where the use of concrete and steel must be sharply curtailed, and wood products must be sustainably harvested to preserve our regional forests.

And in healthy materials, where we must drastically reduce the acceptable applications for Red List Materials as defined by the Living Buildings Challenge.

Please feel free to reach out to me for further specificity on this topic.