



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

March 16, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: City of Portland Support for SB 868, 869, 870 and 871

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Vinh Mason and I serve as Senior Climate Policy Advisor for the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. In this role I support the City in developing and implementing policy proposals that will help meet our adopted climate action goals, which include reducing carbon emissions 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions for all Portland buildings by 2050. Through our work, we understand that energy consumption in buildings makes up a significant portion of the annual greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon, and as Oregon's largest city, we are steadfast in our quest to reduce emissions and meet our ambitious climate action goals. But when it comes to carbon emissions and climate change, no single community can make the difference all on their own. For this reason, we appreciate Senator Lieber's leadership and strongly support the REBuild Task Force's policy recommendations articulated in SB 868, 869, 870 and 871, which will decrease carbon emissions from the building sector while improving community resilience to climate change. The remainder of this testimony is specific to Senate Bill 870-1, which will establish building performance standards for commercial buildings larger than 50,000 square feet.

From 2016 to 2019, the City of Portland required owners of commercial buildings 20,000 square feet and larger to report annual energy performance to assess energy usage and carbon emissions. During that four-year period, energy use declined by only 2.7% while carbon emission decreased marginally.



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We can and should do better, and building performance standards are an important step to help the city and state meet our respective climate goals.

Following this analysis, the City of Portland worked in partnership with community-based organizations to elevate historically marginalized and impacted voices in the development of policy approaches to building decarbonization. This community-based engagement resulted in a proposal to establish building carbon performance standards that will improve the health, affordability and resilience of Portland's buildings. We are now working with stakeholders to refine the proposed [Climate and Health Standards for Existing Buildings](#). As our local efforts continues, we look forward to working with the State to support streamlined statewide implementation while ensuring Portland and other communities can meet community's expectations, priorities and local climate goals.

Thank you,

Vinh Mason

Vinh Mason
Senior Climate Policy Advisor

