



March 16, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 869 - Relating to Resilient Efficient Buildings

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

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club and its 74,000 members and supporters, we are writing in support of Senate Bill 869 in the Resilient, Efficient Buildings Policy Package.

SB 869 will update Oregon's building code so that all new buildings are constructed to be more efficient and resilient, which makes this bill climate-smart. It supports Oregon communities working towards resiliency, providing affordable solutions and family-wage jobs. Every day we are reminded of the fact that our world is changing due to the amount of carbon we are releasing into the atmosphere. The fact that buildings are among the largest sources of climate pollution in Oregon means that they can be a climate solution and as we transition away from fossil fuels used to heat and power them and adopt clean electric alternatives.

Buildings also provide an important defense against extreme heat and wildfire smoke. They assist in keeping wildfire smoke and other outdoor air pollution out, while regulating indoor temperatures. However, currently there are barriers within the state making it difficult for Oregonians to update their homes to make them safer and healthier. This legislative package will promote the use of more insulation and sturdier windows and doors, and facilitate the transition to clean electricity for heating and cooking. It's important that all of Oregon's homes and buildings are more resilient to protect us from climate harms.

In addition, buildings are key to ensuring energy affordability by helping families save money on utility bills. More efficient, all-electric homes and buildings can reduce costs in both construction



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and operation costs. Moreover, the transition to clean, efficient buildings will support local, family-wage jobs and provide the opportunity to build Oregon's growing clean energy economy.

Finally, it is important to note there is a growing body of evidence that clearly shows the use of gas in homes and buildings is having significant beneficial impacts to indoor and outdoor air quality, and in turn, having positive impacts on public health and safety. A recent study found that almost 13% of childhood asthma nationwide is attributable to exposure to gas stoves. It is critical that we pass policies like those in the Resilient, Efficient Buildings package to transition our homes and buildings away from polluting gas to adopt clean, electric alternatives.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 869 in the Resilient, Efficient Buildings Policy Package.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Dix, Chair
Legislative Committee
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club