

Submitter: Daja Long
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB869

To: Senate Energy and Environment Committee
From: Daja Long, Willamette University
Re: Healthy Heating & Cooling for All (SB 868); Built Smart from the Start (SB 869);
Building Performance Standard (SB 870); Smart State Buildings (SB 871)

Chair Soliman; Vice Chair Findley; and members Sen. Golden, Sen. Hayden, and Sen. Lieber of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of SB 868; SB 869; SB 870; SB 871, as a student at Willamette University, who's concerned with climate justice in Oregon. As a freshman, I couldn't have been more excited to adjust to my new environment the first week I moved into my dorm. It was towards the end of summer when the temperatures were in the 90s and my dorm hall had no air conditioning.

The very first week, I experienced heat exhaustion symptoms, making it harder for me to adjust to my new living space. By passing these bills, Willamette can be one of the first to improve its infrastructure by implementing air-source heat pumps, so its students can feel comfortable in their residence halls. Another issue that these bills solve is affordable energy. I'm a student already in debt for my education and it would be beneficial to ensure the existing residential buildings on campus can transition to clean energy while also saving in costs.

On a wider scale, Oregonians are feeling the brunt of climate change, especially low-income communities. It is important that these issues are made a priority to reduce utility costs and bad air quality for these frontline communities.

Buildings contribute a significant amount to carbon emissions, therefore, I urge you to pass these bills in the 2023 legislative session to ensure that we meet our state's climate targets.

Sincerely, Daja Long