

Submitter: Jonathan Clark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB870

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Marsh,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, commercial buildings consume roughly 18%, nearly a fifth!, of total U.S. energy. If we are to make an impact in lowering greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) here in Oregon, we have to reduce the energy use in this sector, while making sure that the remaining energy needs are met by green solutions.

In one of my previous jobs, working in an office, I experienced firsthand how much heating and cooling can be wasted in these buildings. Cubicle spaces are often too cold for comfort, both in the winter from lack of proper heating, and in the summer from over-cooling. Waste heat from lab spaces and server rooms is generally not utilized in the cooler months to warm cubicle spaces. To add to the insanity, these labs and server rooms still require A/C 24/7, even when it's freezing outdoors! In the warmer months, cooling costs are even higher, sometimes overloading the outdated HVAC systems.

Solutions to these problems already exist, but they can be expensive upfront, even though they would save money in the long-term. Many businesses will opt out for short-term gains, rather than invest in money-saving and climate-saving solutions. This bill would provide stricter regulations for retrofitting commercial buildings, lowering the energy needs for heating/cooling, and reducing GHGs.

We must act quickly to prevent the worst effects of Climate Change. I fully support this bill, and I hope that you will go further in future bills and sponsor a comprehensive Climate Crisis plan to bring all of Oregon's GHGs down to net-zero as soon as possible.