



March 16th, 2023

Senator Sollman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, H-490  
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

My name is Neil Baungard and I am the Policy Manager at the Environmental Center serving Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties in Central, Oregon and I also served as a member of the Resilient Efficient buildings taskforce. I am voicing our strong support for the RE Bill Package SB 868, SB 869, SB 870 and SB 871 and their forthcoming amendments.

Oregon's buildings are a significant contributor to the state's greenhouse gas emissions. In order to achieve decarbonization of the economy at a national level, experts estimate that we need to decrease energy waste by 40%. Improving building efficiency has the potential to not only decrease their carbon footprint, but also to increase resilience and comfort in extreme weather conditions.

In order to meet all of these resilience, efficient and carbon smart goals we need to address as many areas of our building sector as possible and these bills are able to do that in the following ways SB-868 and 870 will support the development of increased efficiency in our existing residential and commercial buildings through the deployment of efficient heating and cooling. SB 869 helps us build smart from the start, both codifying the efficiency improvements that we are currently working toward but also importantly adding the carbon impact of building materials into the code development process. And finally it is always important to lead by example and SB 871 removes some barriers to allow state owned buildings to leverage private sector investments in improving the efficiency of our state owned buildings across the state.

I wanted to share a quick example of how the efforts on new and existing homes and buildings are an essential part of affordable building and housing. In my efficiency work in CO I was able to see first hand how challenging it can be for energy burdened community members to heat and cool their houses. Energy costs are an often overlooked, but essential component of housing affordability. We are lucky in Central Oregon that our three main affordable housing providers have all realized this important component of efficiency and housing affordability and they currently build all of their units well above code and often to net zero standards including solar.

It was an honor to participate on the taskforce and I feel that these bills take an important step forward on making homes and buildings healthier, more comfortable, more affordable, and climate friendly. In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 868, SB 869, SB 870 and SB 871 and their forthcoming amendments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Neil Baungard  
The Environmental Center  
16 NW Kansas Ave  
Bend, OR 97703  
[Neil@Envirocenter.org](mailto:Neil@Envirocenter.org)