

Submitter: Margaret Bowman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB871

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley and all members of the Senate Committee and Environment,

I write today to ask you to support bills that are in the Resilient, Efficient Building Package. As we face growing harm from extreme heat, wildfire smoke and fossil fuel pollution, we can seize this moment and make wise investments in healthier heating and cooling by incentivizing the transition to heat pumps. Efficient and resilient buildings will lead to better health, less pollution, lower costs and a safer, more livable future for young Oregonians. We must reduce climate harm by building energy smart homes and commercial buildings going forward.

We can help Oregon residents lower their energy use and costs by subsidizing insulation, sturdier windows and doors and shift away fossil fuel cooking. Grandchildren like ours are exposed to hazardous methane leakage from gas stoves, but many families can't afford to replace these appliances without financial incentives.

Oregon needs a lot more affordable housing, and other buildings like schools and hospitals, for our growing population. It's more affordable to build all-electric with heat pumps, and to live and work in homes and buildings that waste less energy. Gas is now more expensive than we can afford and the costs will continue to skyrocket. NW Natural Gas— the largest fossil fuel company in Oregon— increased rates more than 40% in 13 months. Meanwhile, the cost of renewable electricity, like solar and wind, is falling.

Please make the fiscally prudent and humanitarian choice to support SB 868, SB 869, SB 870 and SB 871.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Margaret Bowman