



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

March 17, 2023

SB 868, 869, 870, 871

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee, my name is Karen Harrington testifying in strong support of SB868, SB869, SB870, and SB871 on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter.

Climate pollution is here and felt by all Oregonians – whether from air and water pollution, extreme heat and drought, wildfires, or erratic and intense storms. Lives have been lost due to the increasing number and intensity of wildfires and due to extreme heat. My granddaughter was born in June 2021 in Portland and came home in 116 degree heat. Her family was fortunate to have air conditioning and their neighborhood did not lose power. Others were not so fortunate. That extreme heat event was a wakeup call of the need to increase our homes' weatherization, building in resilience to these events. Our homes should be our first line of defense against these climate harms

This package of bills represents a holistic approach to the sector of our economy that is Oregon's second largest emitter of greenhouse gasses, our homes and businesses. They address energy efficiency in new and already constructed buildings, reducing costs for homeowners and businesses, taking pressure off the energy grid, and reducing GHG emissions. These bills increase the resilience of our buildings with better insulation and sturdier windows and doors. They provide rebates and incentives, especially targeted towards Environmental Justice communities to ensure all Oregonians have the opportunity to live healthier lives and participate in Oregon's transition to a more sustainable future. Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter strongly supports SB 868's provision for "a one-stop resource and clearinghouse for information related to energy efficiency upgrades,

whole home renovations and heat pump technologies for heating and cooling"-- I wish this streamlining of steps was available when I was doing my own home-electrification!

This package of bills represents the consensus of the 2022 Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient buildings. They include heat pumps for efficient heating and cooling, workforce development to provide trained building contractors, building performance standards to reduce emissions and increase efficiency of large commercial buildings, and increased efficiency standards for state buildings which will serve as examples for how competitive and affordable resilience and efficiency is. Fewer emissions, more efficiency, and healthier buildings accessible to all is what we need for equitable climate action

Thank you Senator Lieber and Rep. Marsh for your leadership of the task force and in bringing this package of bills forward.

Sometimes the path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions can feel daunting. But in the buildings sector lowering emissions is a quadruple win. The move to resilient, efficient buildings with heat pumps will lower utility bills, provide needed cooling during heat waves and heating during cold weather, protect indoor air quality, and create jobs.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington  
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