

Submitter: Melanie Plaut

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Co-chairs Sanchez and Steiner, members of the committee, and especially my legislators Rep Sanchez and Senator Frederick. My name is Melanie Plaut. I am an OB/GYN doctor who volunteers with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

It is clearer every year that climate policy is health policy. Oregonians need safe and clean homes, resilient communities and clean energy jobs.

So I ask you to invest in the Building Resilience package.

Don't let the federal dollars pass us by - leverage these dollars, do not waste this opportunity.

Don't skimp on the modest amount of money needed to ensure our state agencies are adequately funded to administer these programs. Please look carefully at the Co-Chairs Budget Framework to be sure we invest in climate and communities now, rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund.

This work is foundational for everything else included in the People's Budget, because the concept of home is central to life. Without near-term policy action, we risk leaving the most vulnerable Oregonians—renters, low-income, BIPOC, and rural communities—with ever more expensive energy bills and without access to healthy, resilient, and affordable homes.

Thank you for your time today.