



Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

May 2, 2023

RE: SUPPORT FOR A STRONG BUDGET THROUGH SB 5506

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and members of the Committee:

My name is Ashley Haight and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm the manager of the ZERO Coalition (ZERO). ZERO is pleased to support a strong state budget, and passage of the Resilient, Efficient Buildings Package with full funding.

ZERO brings together the work and perspectives of architectural firms, energy efficiency organizations, construction businesses, policy advocates, manufacturers, government agencies, community organizations, environmental justice partners, and energy service providers. Together we are collaborating to help Oregon meet its climate responsibilities by taking an equity-centered approach to decarbonizing buildings in Oregon. We work to ensure that the market conditions and regulatory frameworks are in place to advance sustainability in the built environment in a way that leaves no one behind.

By fully funding the Resilient, Efficient Buildings bill package (Senate Bills 868 - 871 and House Bill 3166) we'll gain better health, lower costs, and a safer climate. The package increases climate resilience, with more insulation and sturdier windows and doors, and helps Oregonians transition to clean electricity for heating and cooling.

ZERO supports the Resilient, Efficient Buildings policy package because homes and buildings are our first line of defense against climate harms, like extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Energy-efficient buildings keep wildfire smoke and other outdoor air pollution out while helping to regulate indoor temperatures. As the second largest—and growing—source



of climate pollution in Oregon, the buildings in which we live and work are critical to achieving our climate goals.

Approximately a third of buildings in Oregon that will exist in 2050 have yet to be built. We know that cities are growing rapidly and housing is in high demand across the state, meaning that jobs constructing clean, efficient buildings will be a continuous need. At the same time, over 85% of Oregon's existing single-family residences were built prior to 2000 (before the prevalence of energy codes), which means there is a significant need to retrofit existing buildings. Let's ensure new construction is built smart from the start and remove barriers for Oregonians who want to improve current homes and buildings to waste less energy, protect us from climate extremes, and run on clean energy. The transition to clean, efficient buildings provides an opportunity to build on Oregon's existing clean energy economy and support local, family-wage jobs that can't be exported.

Oregon Can't Wait. We must invest now in solving our challenges or things will get worse and more expensive later. We can't wait for a rainy day.

ZERO strongly urges you to support a strong state budget and pass the Resilient, Efficient policy package with full funding (SB 868 - 871 and HB 3166).

Sincerely,

Ashley Haight and the following ZERO Coalition members:

Ankrom Moisan Architects
Birdsmouth
BlueGreen Alliance
City of Milwaukie
City of Tigard
Climate Reality Project - Portland Chapter
Climate Solutions
Community Energy Project
Dream Home Building and Design



Earth Advantage
Electrify Now
ElectrifyPDX
Green Hammer
Harka Architecture
Imagine Energy
Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT)
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
New Buildings Institute
NorthWest AeroBarrier
NW Energy Coalition
Opsis Architecture
Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV)
Passive House Northwest
SERA Architects
Sierra Club Oregon Chapter
The Environmental Center
Walsh Construction
350 Deschutes
350 Eugene





NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future





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