

Submitter: Ann Turner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3081

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee, My name is Ann Turner. I am a retired physician and a member and Co-President of the Board of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR). Oregon PSR works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival.

I strongly urge you to pass HB 3081.

As a physician, I worked in a federally qualified community health center, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, caring for low-income families, the majority of whom did not speak English or for whom English was not their first language.

Most of us don't have in depth knowledge of the most cost effective and safe options when we are faced with needing to replace our furnaces or heat pumps or when we need to weatherize our homes so that we use less energy. This is especially true for those whose first language is not English. HB 3081 adds direct assistance from someone who speaks their language and lives in their part of the state understand the information in the search tool One Stop Shop 1.0 (aka HIPPO). Those seeking help are able to ask questions, get clear information about what incentives they are eligible for, and be connected to qualified contractors in their area.

This bill is good for Oregon residents because it helps them lower their energy bills and it can also improve their health by protecting them from extreme heat and indoor and ambient air pollution. Over half of all homes and apartments in Oregon were built before 1980 which means that they are likely to be energy inefficient and in need of repair. Helping residents weatherize their homes, upgrade their electrical and heating/cooling systems makes them safer. More energy efficient appliances and weatherized homes put less strain on the grid.

Please pass HB 3081 to improve the access of all Oregonians, including frontline and BIPOC communities, to the most cost effective and efficient ways to make their homes energy efficient.

Thank you,
Ann Turner, MD
Portland