



2900 SE Stark St, Suite A  
Portland, OR 97214

Tele 503.284.6827  
Fax 503.284.9403  
[www.communityenergyproject.org](http://www.communityenergyproject.org)

April 2, 2019

House Energy & Environment Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for House Bill 3094, to help low and moderate income Oregon families save money, improve health and stability, and create jobs through energy efficiency retrofits**

Dear Members of the Committee:

Community Energy Project is pleased to provide this unique information in **SUPPORT of HB 3094.**

Community Energy Project is a 40-year-old non-profit serving primarily low-income Oregonians by providing in-home efficiency and repair services and do-it-yourself efficiency trainings, and as such, is a trusted source for energy information. We have a deep understanding of barriers to efficiency faced by lower and middle-income households.

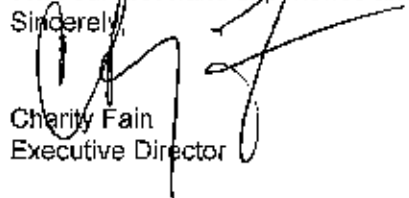
Low and Middle income homeowners are less likely than their wealthier counterparts to live in efficient homes.<sup>1</sup> **The cause of this “efficiency inequality” is not a failure of technology, rather it is a failure of technology dissemination.** Abundant research from the efficiency industry and others like the Pew Charitable Trust speak definitively to the reason for this lagging adoption: *Efficient technologies cost more - a lot more.* The cheapest 50-gallon electric water heater costs \$400. An installed heat pump water heater costs \$2,000. To ensure equitable distribution of these technologies, programs such as HB 3094 are needed to help families afford these measures.

We know that energy efficiency upgrades also improve the **health, value and durability of our housing stock, and ultimately help build more resilient communities.** At the same time, families reduce their **energy bills, and many see reductions in health-related costs (e.g. asthma costs)** due to improved air quality and moisture management in their homes. These benefits result in **improved affordability and housing stability** for Oregon’s lower income families. Finally, improved health and stability means fewer school and work days missed – a direct impact for families wrestling with day-to-day challenges.

**Without HB 3094, Oregon will fail to capture these smart, investment-multiplying benefits of energy savings, job creation, affordability and health enhancements.**

With our first-hand experience and perspective on these industries, CEP strongly supports HB 3094.

Sincerely,

  
Charity Fain  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> The relationship between household energy efficiency and demographic characteristics has not received enough attention. A notable exception is: ACEEE. 2016. *Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities: How Energy Efficiency Can Improve Low-Income and Underserved Communities.* Research Report 1602: <https://aceee.org/research-report/ur1602>. Energy Trust of Oregon is currently engaged in this work, and it can be examined using the DOE Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool: <https://openel.org/doe-opendata/dataset/calica-data>.

