



Oregon Hearth, Patio &
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April 2, 2019

To: Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: G. Harvey Gail, MBA, Executive Director, Oregon Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association.

RE: **SB 1031 Support**

Our association represents 60 retail stores, installers and chimney sweeps across Oregon who sell and install biomass heating appliances and natural gas heaters (wood and pellet stoves).

OHPBA is **in support of SB 1031:**

- The wood stove industry supported the *Residential Solid Fuel Heating Air Quality Improvement Fund* when it was formed in 2017 but were disappointed that it did not receive funding then. **Funding now is an important way to ensure this program starts making a difference.**
- We feel the **amount in SB 1031 of \$2,000,000 is an adequate level of funding. This amount when combined with creative community efforts and if leveraged with other funding options will make a difference** in lowering PM 2.5 particulate levels in many communities.
- Many Oregonians in low income and rural areas **cannot afford** to change out uncertified biomass heaters to certified wood, pellet gas and electric heating options. They need assistance.
- Many communities need financial support to **help them provide creative solutions** to move their citizens to cleaner burning options for home heating than uncertified wood stoves. **SB 1031 will provide that support.**

OHPBA believes Oregonians should have the right to heat their homes in a responsible way using the fuel source that is available to them and that fits their budget. In many rural Oregon towns, that source is cord wood, pellets and bio-bricks. These fuels must be used responsibly in EPA certified appliances using dry, seasoned wood and certified pellets. Modern EPA certified wood burners are dramatically cleaner burning than uncertified stoves from the '70's and 80's.

Also, we advocate that only highly qualified installers should install wood stoves as represented by technicians certified by the **National Fireplace Institute**, the **Chimney Safety Institute of America** and the **Oregon Chimney Sweeps Association**. However, this requirement could be included in rules related to local stove replacement programs.

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