

Dear members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Kemper and I live in NE Portland. I strongly support HB 2842 because this past year has brought insurmountable hardships into the lives of too many Oregonians. It has become evermore clear that this type of legislation needs to be passed so that people who are suffering, or on the verge of losing income or becoming ill, can have even a small bit of relief. Energy equity is incredibly important, especially in a time like now where we are in the midst of so many crises.

54 percent of Oregonians live in housing built before 1978. Not only is this energy inefficient, but the required upkeep of these houses is taxing on individuals and families alike. People need safe homes, they need clean air to breathe in those homes. Four years ago, Oregonians spent 28 million dollars on asthma-related hospital visits. Today, a respiratory pandemic is taking over peoples' air and their lives. With research showing that people who breathe polluted air are at greater risk of becoming ill with COVID-19, this bill is critical in drastically improving lives by supporting needed home improvements.

During this unprecedented time, people need to be spending less of their income on heating and cooling. They need to have a refuge from air pollution during fires and other dangerous climatic events. They need fewer hospital visits and to live in more disaster-resilient homes. Our society needs good, local jobs and a reduced burden on the healthcare system. This bill is an good first step in providing all of these things, and a crucial step in being proactive about the climate crisis.

Thank you Representative Marsh, Representative Power, and Representative Pham and others for sponsoring such progressive legislation.

Sincerely,

Anna Kemper