

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, and Vice Chair Morgan and members of the Committee,

My name is Cassie and I live in Boring. 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. I feel fortunate to have been safe in my home during the hazardous air quality in September and I want the same thing for others who live in older homes that aren't in the condition to withstand the smoke and other air pollutants. Increasing energy efficiency will also help save money and the planet. Not to mention houses need to be sealed to protect people from things like radon gas, an unfortunately common odorless, colorless gas which can cause lung cancer.

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 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 incredible first step in providing all of these things.

I'd also like to thank Representative Marsh, Representative Power, and Representative Pham and others for sponsoring such progressive legislation.

Sincerely,

Cassie Wilson