

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

Thank you for considering my written testimony in support of HB 2842. My name is Scott Shurtleff and I reside in inner SE Portland. I am retired and filling my days with volunteer work for environmental justice and municipal public banks in Oregon.

Every individual and family in Oregon has a right to a healthy and energy-efficient home. Healthy homes are critical during this time of pandemic with people spending most of their time in their homes. Poorly insulated homes force families to choose between heating their home and paying for food and health care. Drafty homes also expose families to outdoor air pollutants, such as wildfire smoke, industrial emissions or vehicle emissions.

In addition to improving families' health and quality of life, HB 2842 has additional important benefits for Oregon and beyond. First, the building improvements and retrofits will create jobs at a time when Oregonian's need job opportunities. Second, it addresses climate change by saving energy and increasing resilience. Third, it will reduce health care costs by preventing avoidable illness caused by unhealthy buildings.

HB 2842 is our opportunity to make vital home improvements available to low income Oregonians. HB 2842 is good for Oregonian's health, Oregon's economy and our Mother Earth.

Please advance HB 2842 in the 2021 legislative process. Thank you for your commitment to a better Oregon!