



Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
House Committee on Housing
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon supports House Bill 2842
Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. We support House Bill 2842 because investing in energy efficiency upgrades and healthier homes helps Oregonians use less energy, reduce their energy bills, and be safer and healthier in their own homes.

Reducing energy use creates big savings—for our planet, our climate and our health. Increasing energy efficiency will clean up our air and help combat climate change and its pervasive threat to our future, and House Bill 2842 will help Oregonians who might not otherwise be able to do so make energy efficiency upgrades. The most efficient way to reduce emissions and energy use is to avoid using energy in the first place, and helping make sure Oregon homes are energy efficient is key to reducing overall energy use. Environment Oregon also supports the parts of HB2842 that deal directly with improving health and safety outcomes for residents, including radon and lead abatement, smoke filtration and air purification systems, and the removal of asthma triggers. Oregonians deserve to be and feel safe in their own homes, and helping vulnerable Oregon residents make these health and safety upgrades will result in better environmental health outcomes for our state. Environment Oregon would support clarifying that "lead abatement" includes replacing lead-bearing plumbing, pipes or fixtures or installing filters certified to remove lead from drinking water. Removing lead paint/dust is important, but we must also make sure that resources are devoted to dealing with lead in drinking water.

Environment Oregon urges you to support House Bill 2842 to improve energy efficiency, fight climate change, and make sure all Oregonians can be and feel safe in their homes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,
John Ammondson
Advocate, Environment Oregon