

Submitter: Melanie Plaut

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3166

Chair Marsh, vice-chairs and members.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify today in favor of HB 3166

My name is Melanie Plaut. I'm a retired OB/Gyn doctor. Since retirement I've been volunteering with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility on issues which lie at the intersection of climate and health.

You won't be surprised to hear that in the last couple years one of the hottest topics has been how to make the way we heat and cook cleaner and safer, both for climate and health reasons. I've spoken to church groups, neighborhood associations and others, especially about the health risks of gas stoves, and how cool induction cooking is. . But people also are very interested in heat pumps and weatherization. These things are basic to health.

One of the most common concerns I get is cost, and confusion about how to get financial help. Should they contact the Energy Trust of Oregon? Are the IRA rebates and tax credits available yet? It's hard for me to give a clear answer, or direct them to a single resource.

It would be extremely helpful if Oregonians had a place for one-stop shopping, where federal, state and local resources could all be made available. The people who need the most financial help are often also those who need the clearest and simplest pathway to getting that help.

Right now I'm feeling lucky staying toasty warm inside thanks to my heat pump while the snow piles up outside. Please move this bill out of committee so we can help untangle the spaghetti of financial assistance and get clean, affordable and efficient heating, cooling and cooking for everyone.

Thanks for dealing with this important issue.

Melanie Plaut MD
Portland, OR