



Testimony on behalf of the City of Eugene in Support for HB 3166 2/22/23

Good Afternoon Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee, I am Lucy Vinis, Mayor of Eugene. Thank you for your service to Oregon and for allowing testimony on this exciting topic. I am here in my official capacity as Mayor to speak on behalf of the City of Eugene in support of House Bill 3166, as well as to provide my perspective as the local government representative for the Resilient and Efficient Buildings Task Force.

As you have heard, this concept came out of the work of the Task Force, including members from across the state, private and public spheres, and numerous professional sectors who understood and agreed that Oregon needs to have statewide coordination to ensure that our communities receive the greatest impact from the literal flood of federal dollars related to energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and climate resiliency. While serving on the Task Force, I was also serving as a member of the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee to make recommendations to EPA on how to implement provisions of the Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. In all of these discussions, my colleagues across the country recognized that this historic federal investment must be met with resource investments at each level of government -- a 'whole of government approach' -- to ensure the transformational impact is realized.

Eugene adopted our updated Climate Action Plan in 2020, and we continue to seek out ways to fund the programs that will get us to the goals outlined in the plan. As many on this committee know, we recently became the first city in the state to stop the expansion of natural gas to some types of new residential buildings. Reducing our carbon footprint requires a wide variety of policy approaches, from regulation to incentives. We look to HB3166 to assist in streamlining incentives for our communities, including the proposed Whole Home Energy Savings Program and the High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program, which are both

critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making buildings more comfortable and resilient as severe smoke and heat events become more common.

The One Stop Shop concept is about individual purchasing choices for a home appliance or business investment in new equipment AND the need for decision makers across the state to coordinate all of the various types of incentives such as tax credits, product rebates, installation payments, permit waivers, or utility incentives that need to align with existing energy efficiency programs across the northwest and ensure that funding doesn't just flow to the easiest projects, but rather to the people and communities that need incentives the most. Many times, it is moderate- and high-income households, as well as well funded commercial entities, that are able to access incentive programs. The concept in HB 3166 will ensure that low income households, BIPOC community members, and small local businesses are just as successful in accessing resources.

Please support HB 3166, this is a moderate investment into state-wide coordination and will leverage the incredibly diligent work that the Oregon Department of Energy, as well as, Housing and Community Services have done over the past few years. I would be remiss in not recognizing the energy efficiency investments that our local utility, Eugene Water and Electric Board, has made over the years and increased Eugene's climate resiliency and clean energy economy. HB3166 will assist communities across the state to realize these same types of benefits. Thank you for your time and please support HB 3166.