

Chair Senator Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the CEE Committee:

I have been scared for our grandchildren's future for decades as the climate crisis has worsened. We all know the disasters that are constantly in the news. However, I have had much more hope lately, since passage of the IRA and since the cost of decarbonized energy has dropped so dramatically. Along with those changes are those now available to improve our homes.

I urge support for HB 3166 to capitalize on the funding available to us that will accelerate the transition to the healthier renewable energy economy with vastly more efficient homes utilizing innovations such as heat pumps for heating and for drying clothes. We now clearly know that burning fossil-fuels in our homes for heat or cooking causes pollution that causes illness. Reducing home heat losses in cold weather and heat gains in hot weather through more efficient homes not only reduces the indoor pollution from using fossil-fuels to heat or to cool, but also reduces demands on the grid for those homes using electricity. We need to make accessing these innovations as smooth and rapid as possible. HB 3166 will accelerate the trend to cleaner indoor air and healthier families.

It is evident that lower-income folks, especially BIPOC communities, have historically had worse housing that is leakier, more expensive to heat and cool, and that causes more illness to those who live there. Implementation of HB 3166, if crafted well, should focus specifically to benefit those people who have been the most impacted by redlining and other housing discrimination.

Passing this bill will leverage available federal funds to ensure maximum benefit to Oregonians. As a family doctor and as an advocate for redressing the wrongs of environmental justice, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3166.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues,

Joseph Stenger MD

