

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE RESILIENT BUILDINGS POLICY PACKAGE

To: Senate Energy and Environment Committee

From: Prof. Janet Lorenzen

RE: Support for Resilient Buildings Policy Package—Healthy Heating and Cooling for All (SB 868), Build Smart from the Start (SB 869), Building Performance Standards (SB 870), Smart State Buildings (SB 871)

Chair Sollman; Vice Chair Findley; and members Sen. Golden, Sen. Hayden, and Sen. Lieber,

My name is Prof. Janet Lorenzen and I live in Salem. I am a member of 350 Salem. These 4 bills will make a huge difference in cutting pollution and reducing energy waste, lowering bills, and protecting us from climate harms. I am particularly interested in voicing my **support for improving Building Performance Standards (SB 870)**.

People have very little control over the housing stock and whether it is energy efficient, this called *carbon lock in*. The housing we are building now will exist for 100 years and lock in emissions for those structures. When I tried to buy a house in Salem that was energy efficient there were none to buy. I was privileged enough to be able to build an all-electric LEED certified house. I have heat pumps and highly insulated walls. Using heat pumps for my HVAC system lowered the cost of my home and keeps my energy bills low.

When the wildfires were a mile away from Salem, I was able to turn off the air intake feature of my HVAC and still run the heat pumps for air conditioning. Homes and buildings are our first line of defense against climate harms, like extreme heat and wildfire smoke and the second largest source of climate pollution in Oregon.

Let's take action in Oregon so all our homes and buildings are more resilient to protect us from climate harms. Let's make sure new construction is **built smart from the start** and remove barriers for Oregonians who want to improve current homes and buildings to **waste less energy, protect us from climate extremes, and run on clean energy**. We must prioritize helping those most harmed by climate extremes and fossil fuels.

One of the goals of LEED is to improve the building performance standards of all housing stock so people who cannot afford to build new still have access to energy efficient housing. Out of this suite of bills, I think **improving Building Performance Standards (SB 870) is the most important**.

Resilient, efficient buildings mean better health, lower costs, less pollution, safer communities, and a more livable future for Oregonians.

Thank you,  
Prof. Janet Lorenzen  
Willamette University  
& 350 Salem OR