

Submitter: Julia Pommert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB870

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee, Subject: Support for SB 868, 869, 870, and 871 My name is Julia Pommert and I live in unincorporated Washington County. I own and manage two town-homes that we rent out in Beaverton. When I was a kid in the 1950s my dad built a new home for our family on the lot next door to where we were living. He had a full-time job at Boeing and did this construction after work with a little help from my grandfather and a hired carpenter. It took him four years to complete from pouring the foundation to when we moved in. It was built with natural gas for heat and hot water. I spent time wandering around that building site and 'helping' Dad as much as a youngster can. Over the past 6 years I have taken some Building Construction Technology classes at the local Portland Community College. I was struck by how many energy saving techniques and appliances have been developed by Building Science in the past couple of decades. That home that my dad built sixty years ago is still in use. With maintenance it could be around another sixty years. But I am sure it uses a huge amount of energy, specifically natural gas, compared to a home built to the best building techniques now available. This all must change as fast as we possibly can. Burning fossil fuels, like natural gas, produces climate change gasses. Burning a lot of natural gas produces a lot of green-house gasses. We are beginning to see how Global Warming is bringing extreme weather events regularly. All those forest fires along the western Cascades over Labor Day 2020 were just an example. We put solar panels on our residence and one rental. We are working to become 'all-electric'. Oregon can and must try to at least slow the rate of Climate Change by slowing and eventually stopping all burning of fossil fuels. This means building much more energy efficient homes now and retrofitting existing homes to be more energy efficient as quick as we can. Please approve Senate Bills 868, 869, 870 and 871. Sincerely, Julia Pommert