



March 16, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 871 - Relating to Resilient Efficient Buildings

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club and its 74,000 members and supporters, we are writing in support of Senate Bill 871 in the Resilient, Efficient Buildings Policy Package.

Senate Bill 871 will help to reduce barriers for public buildings to become more efficient and healthier. This bill, along with the others in the policy package, are climate-smart. Every day we are reminded of the fact that our world is changing due to the volume of greenhouse gasses we are releasing into the atmosphere. Buildings are among Oregon's largest and fastest growing sources of climate pollution. We need legislation like SB 871 to transition Oregon away from fossil fuels used for heat and power, and to move expeditiously toward clean electric alternatives.

Buildings are an important defense against extreme heat and wildfire smoke. They help limit wildfire smoke and other outdoor air pollution from coming in, while helping to regulate indoor temperatures. Currently there are barriers to people updating their homes to make them safer and healthier. This legislative package will provide assistance with additional insulation, sturdier windows and doors, and the transition to clean electricity for heating and cooking. It is important that all of Oregon's homes and buildings are more resilient to protect us from current and future climate harms.



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In addition, buildings are key to facilitating energy affordability with lower utility bills, and more efficient, all-electric homes and buildings can reduce construction and operation costs. The transition to clean, efficient buildings will support local, family-wage jobs and provide the opportunity to build on Oregon's existing clean energy economy.

Finally, it is important to note a growing body of evidence clearly shows that the use of gas in homes and buildings is having significant beneficial impacts on indoor and outdoor air quality, and in turn, favorable impacts on public health and safety. A recent study found that almost 13% of childhood asthma nationwide is attributable to exposure to gas stoves. It is critical that we pass policies like those in the Resilient, Efficient Buildings package to transition our homes and buildings away from polluting gas to clean, electric alternatives.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 871 in the Resilient, Efficient Buildings Policy Package.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Dix, Chair
Legislative Committee
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club