



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 16, 2023

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair
Senator Lynn Findley, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of Senate Bills 868, 869, 870 and 871

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

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to express support of this suite of bills to address Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from Oregon's residential and commercial buildings, a sector that emits about 37% of GHG emissions in Oregon, as reported by the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) in 2020.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

Our support for the suite of bills follows from OAPA's legislative priority policy to support legislation that confronts climate change by actions that mitigate climate change and help Oregon's communities prepare for, adapt to, and become more resilient to its impacts, while addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change on vulnerable community members.

OAPA believes that these bills titled Healthy Heating and Cooling for All, Build Smart from the Start, Building Performance Standards for Commercial Buildings; and Smart State Buildings match our legislative priority policies.

As additional comments, OAPA supports:

- Prioritizing actions that help vulnerable populations and communities adapt to impacts from climate change.
- Mandatory energy efficiency building codes for commercial and residential buildings that will not only help achieve the transition to net-zero-carbon-based energy use but also have the additional benefits of improving climate resilience, lowering energy costs and investments, and improving public health and air quality.
- Programs and support for accelerating purchases and use of heat pump technologies to meet the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals

while prioritizing environmental justice communities and individuals.

- Increasing the energy efficiency of existing commercial and state buildings. This not only will result in increased GHG emission reductions but will also benefit employees, customers and the general public health by providing indoor spaces with cleaner air, and resilience to extreme heat and cold.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to express OAPA's strong support of Senate Bills 868, 869, 870 and 871 and encourage its passage through the chambers to the Governor's office for her signature.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Cook

Kevin Cook (he/him)
Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee
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