

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB868

I support SB 868 -1 Healthy Heating and Cooling for All that aligns energy efficiency programs with state climate goals, sets a heat pump target for the state, supports workforce development, and improves navigation of federal and state incentives for energy efficiency and retrofits of homes and businesses. Because homes and buildings generate more greenhouse gases than any sector in Oregon except for transportation.

I live in a duplex built in 1925. I purchased this home in 1992 and felt lucky to make the mortgage payment every month. Over the past years I have made improvements as I could afford them. Added insulation, upgraded to double paned windows, and installed more efficient forced air gas furnaces as well as upgrading the electrical service. I have always rented one unit and sometimes both when I moved for work. I became concerned about my carbon footprint (2 tons average per home = 4 total). I asked Energy Trust of Oregon to come to evaluate and help me be more efficient. When I asked about electric heat they said, "we do not recommend fuel switching" so I installed that more efficient gas heater in 2012.

By 2020 I had learned a lot more about the polluting effects of methane and viewed firsthand the lobbying efforts of NW Natural Gas still claiming to be a clean fuel. I felt angry and it's always good to channel anger into constructive action so I started an electrification process. Interest rates were low back in 2020 and I found a good contractor who could right size the heating, manage the electrical and plumbing subcontractors, and weatherize. I refinanced my duplex and electrified everything, actually two of everything since it is a duplex.

I now have two heat pump electric hot-water heaters, two Mitsubishi ducted heat pumps with air handlers, two electric fireplace inserts, and two induction ranges, and weather stripping around all eight doors. All for \$35,000. I checked out rebates with Energy Trust of Oregon and found I was eligible for \$30 for the electric heat pump hotwater heater in the rental unit. My total utility bills are about the same. I called NW Natural Gas and asked them to cut off the gas, at the street. They did so free of charge.

This was not a cost saving project, it was a climate saving project because I have Pacific Power's Blue Sky program guaranteeing my electricity is cleanly generated.

The next best benefit came right after installation. Wildfires made the air so smokey we could not safely be outside and my weatherstripping and air handler with HEPPA

filter kept the inside air clean (the filter had to be changed after a week). The next benefit came the following year with the 116 degree heat dome. The house stayed cool inside.

I talk about this electrification project all the time and recommend my contractor. One friend said to the other, 'just call her contractor and tell him you want the 'full Stackhouse'.' There are a growing number of contractors available to do this work and still some who have no idea how to size a heat pump for a specific home. We need to build the workforce and SB 686-1 also helps to do that. We also need more options for battery backup when the electrical service goes down. We had three days without power in 2020 and, because of the insulation, the house was cold but warmer than outside but it would have been nice to cook. I once referred to my electrification project as a conversion which it has been in more ways than one.

I'm asking you to make sure everyone in Oregon can get the 'full Stackhouse'. We can live comfortably without burning methane gas.