

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB868

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, and Committee Members,

I live in Tillamook County and am writing in support of the whole Buildings Resilience Package, SB 868, 869, 870, and 871.

SB 868, in particular, is essential to help people in existing buildings save money on utility bills, have healthier indoor air quality, and play a role in reducing climate-warming emissions from the buildings sector. I think the "one-stop resource and clearinghouse for information related to energy efficiency upgrades, whole home renovations and heat pump technologies for heating and cooling" is absolutely essential to the success of this program. People want to fix things once, and fix things right, but most of us are strapped for time and/or money. Having a trusted source to guide us through the complexities of renovating for efficiency and accessing incentives and rebates will make these winwin upgrades possible, and accessible to more people.

Noting that over 85% of Oregon's existing single-family residences were built prior to 2000-- before the prevalence of energy codes-- I encourage the Committee to consider adding language emphasizing the importance of pairing weatherization -- like insulation and sealing around windows and doors-- along with energy efficient heat pumps and induction stoves, for both better conservation of energy and increased protection of indoor air quality.

I also appreciate that this bill creates workforce training, creating more good-paying jobs and facilitating the speed at which these positive renovations can be accomplished.

Thank you,
Helena Birecki