

Submitter: Linda Ganzini

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB868

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Committee

My name is Linda Ganzini, MD, MPH, and my husband is Ronald Heintz, MD. We are retired and live in Lake Oswego, OR. We have lived in Oregon for a combined 129 years! We are immensely proud of our State for its many years of forward-looking actions on environmental issues. We love its green, clean, healthy outdoors.

We are also intensely worried about climate change, not only for ourselves, but our children. How much worse will these devastating wildfires and heat waves become? I was a geriatric psychiatrist, and my husband was a psychiatrist who worked with people with persistent, severe mental illnesses. Both the elderly and those with mental illness are particularly at risk of injury and death from heat waves. We are scientists by training and know that addressing climate change requires an all-in, all-hands-on-deck approach with unprecedented speed, scope, and scale. Every part of our economy must change, and we must start now. Luckily if we do, we will become a more vibrant, economically successful, fair, and healthy State. Moving from fossil fuels to more efficient, electrified energy sources will result in a bright and comfortable future.

That is why we support SBs 868, 869, 870 and 871. These bills begin to tackle climate pollution from buildings. It is so much easier and less costly to build our buildings for the future than retrofit past mistakes. But also, as buildings are retrofitted and remodeled, we must focus on energy efficiency. This legislation is essential in helping us reach our greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Our family recently installed comfortable and efficient heat pumps for space conditioning with immediate and substantial reductions in energy costs. We also switched from gas to induction cooking resulting in less indoor pollution and a better cooking experience. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the way to go and doing it right from the beginning is much more cost efficient than retrofitting it later.

Thank you for your service to Oregon.

Linda Ganzini and Ron Heintz