

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

March 17, 2023

Re: Support of SB 868-871

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Resilient, Efficient Buildings policy package, Senate Bills 868 through 871, which will reduce climate pollution while supporting healthy, affordable, resilient communities and family-wage jobs across Oregon.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a faith-based organization with a focus on loving our neighbors, which we do through direct services to help meet basic needs such as food and housing. EMO includes 15 member denominations with congregations across the state.

We support the Resilient, Efficient Buildings policy package because homes and buildings are our first line of defense against climate harms, such as extreme heat and wildfire smoke. During the 2021 heat dome, our member congregations joined efforts with state agencies to deploy portable air conditioning units to vulnerable populations across the state. This was a successful effort that potentially saved lives, but what if we had already had the infrastructure in place to affordably and efficiently regulate building temperatures? This policy package would increase building and energy efficiency and provide ongoing support for Oregonians by improving both our new and existing buildings. We appreciate that the state is stepping up to begin this work through the Lead by Example bill, and that the Healthy Heating & Cooling for All bill ensures energy savings are accessible to all our neighbors in Oregon.

As part of the younger generation, I ask you to support this legislation now for the sake of my peers and me. My generation will be living and working in these buildings for decades and we need buildings with energy and sustainability standards to help us adapt to impacts of the climate crisis, and to hopefully reverse it. This package is a strong step toward mitigating the extent of the climate crisis and reducing significant carbon emissions.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote YES on SBs 868 – 871.

Sincerely,

Julia Weinand
Climate & Environmental Justice Policy Advocate
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Board Members

The Rev. Roberta Egli
Chair

The Rev. Sean Langdon
Chair-elect

The Rev. Michael Grogan
Immediate Past Chair

The Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman
Treasurer

Barbara O'Hare
Secretary

The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama
The Rev. Andrew Bansemer
Shawn Daley

The Rev. Richenda Fairhurst
The Rev. Ernestine Flemister
Alaide Vilchis Ibarra

The Rev. Beverly Jackson
The Rev. Linda Jaramillo
The Rev. Erika Marksbury
Patty Nance

The Rev. Cecil Prescod
Jane Snyder
Pedro Sosa

The Rev. Alicia Speidel
Julia Banner Spence
The Rev. Charlotte Wells

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page
Lifetime Member

Frank So
President

Interchurch Center
245 S. Bancroft St., Ste. B
Portland, Oregon 97239

phone (503) 221-1054
email emo@emoregon.org
website EMOoregon.org