

## **Testimony in Support of SB 868, SB 869, SB 870, and SB 871**

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Committee: My wife and I own and manage a 79 acre forested property in East Multnomah County. We have witnessed first hand the effects of climate change in recent years. The severe heat dome in June of 2021 stressed many of the douglas fir trees in our forest, as well as trees throughout the Willamette Valley and Cascades foothills. Wildfires have become a more frequent threat in Oregon's forests, and during the Eagle Creek fire a few years ago we had to evacuate our farm, as did many of our neighbors in the Corbett area.

Looking at solutions about how to mitigate climate change, we have entered into a voluntary agreement to sequester carbon in our forest by foregoing harvesting for a 125-year period. In exchange we will be selling carbon credits on the voluntary market. We are doing our part to allow our forest to be part of a natural climate solution to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The constellation of bills before your committee, SB 868, SB 869, SB 870, and SB 871 would address in a significant way the emissions side of the climate equation. Energy consumption in buildings is responsible for nearly 35 percent of annual Oregon greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Buildings are the second largest contributor to GHG emissions after the transportation sector. These bills would ensure that going forward our buildings would be constructed and retrofitted to be energy efficient, utilize clean energy, and reduce dramatically their emission of GHGs.

This month at our farm we are removing our propane tank, as we are preparing to replace our propane furnace with a heat pump, which is a cleaner source of heat and cooling. The bills before you would incentivize other homeowners to convert to heat pumps as a way of heating living space and water.

As a retired psychologist I have studied the health effects of climate change, which are significant. A warming planet is responsible for more heat-related deaths, increased spread of infectious diseases like dengue fever due to the changing vectors of mosquitoes, more severe storms, increased food insecurity, scarcity and contamination of drinking water, increase in human displacement and migration, and conflict resulting from resource scarcity. These problems will only escalate unless we take action now. I urge you to advance all four of these bills.

Sincerely,  
John F Christensen, PhD