

Submitter: Debby Garman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB870

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Committee, I'm Debby Garman, and I live in Hillsboro.

Resilient, Efficient Buildings mean better health, lower costs, less pollution, safer communities, and a more livable future for young Oregonians.

I live in a historic 1916 bungalow in downtown Hillsboro and I am terrifically grateful that my family has been able to afford substantial energy upgrades to make our home more livable and comfortable. Some years ago we were able to conduct an energy audit and found it was no wonder that our home was very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. We followed the roadmap provided by the audit to add insulation, improve our windows and take care of lots of spots where cold air blew in. We were able to add a heat pump a couple of years ago and our home comforts improves and our overall energy costs have declined. Not everyone has the income to do the things we did, but everyone deserves to live in safety and comfort, and policies you pass can make that happen.

Homes and buildings are our first line of defense against climate harms, like extreme heat and wildfire smoke and the second largest source of climate pollution in Oregon. We'll gain better health, lower costs, and a safer climate by increasing climate resilience, with more insulation and sturdier windows and doors, and transitioning to clean electricity for heating and cooking.

Let's take action in Oregon so all our homes and buildings are more resilient to protect us from climate harms. Let's make sure new construction is built smart from the start and remove barriers for Oregonians who want to improve current homes and buildings to waste less energy, protect us from climate extremes, and run on clean energy. We must prioritize helping those most harmed by climate extremes and fossil fuels.

Please DO pass the package of resilient building bills, including: Healthy Heating and Cooling for All (SB 868), Build Smart from the Start (SB 869), Building Performance Standards (SB 870), and Smart State Buildings (SB 871).

Thank you.