

Submitter: Susan Delventhal

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB869

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee on energy and Environment,

My name is Susan Delventhal, and I am a resident of rural Yamhill County in the Chehalem Mountains (2 miles South of Washington County). In September 2020 my family and I evacuated due to a wildfire after a long dry summer. Living in a heavily wooded area with plenty of fuel the fire spread quickly, fortunately no individuals, livestock, or homes were lost. That event was a tipping point - our family could no longer ignore that climate change at our doorstep. A month ago, I opened a closet rarely used and smelt smoke - a reminder of that fire still lingering in the blankets, stored in that closet. Since that fire, my husband and I have worked hard - clearing our property of excess fuel on the ground, removing shrubs and trees that will contribute to the house catching on fire, reducing our driving unnecessarily, consuming wisely, and trying to make decisions to minimize our carbon footprint.

I started with this snippet of my personally life because I am tired of climate goals, timelines, and then deadlines being created then missed. It is time to start finding tangible solutions to address local, state, country and global goals to reduce carbon emissions on our planet. Senate Bill 869, "Build Smart from the Start" is a solution that support our states Climate goals. New buildings and residences should be energy efficient and more resilient to climate impacts. It is shameful that developers can throw up buildings poorly constructed, barely meeting codes, and reap a huge profit. New homes, apartments, and buildings should all align with Oregon's Building Codes with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, codify the energy efficiency targets within EO 20-04, and maintain alignment with national professional industry standards. Reduction of embodied Carbon should also be targeted by Oregon's Building Codes requirements.

As Oregon's population continues to grow the demand for housing, public buildings, commercial, and industrial builds will grow. We must do better in addressing climate change impacts by requiring all new buildings be constructed to be energy efficient and more resilient to these climate impacts. SB 869 has the ability to do just that.