



Submitted electronically via OLIS

Joint Ways and Means Committee
Oregon State Legislative Assembly
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

March 7, 2023:

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is John Seng, I am a constituent from Northeast Portland, and I work for Spark Northwest, a regional nonprofit that partners with marginalized communities across the state to design and fund clean energy projects. I am writing to respectfully urge you to fully fund the community resilience and environmental justice measures from the Fair Shot People's Budget, rather than channeling more revenue into our sizable rainy-day fund.

Here in Portland, the 2021 heat dome and 2022 ice storm are still fresh in our collective memory, and we know more extreme weather events are coming soon. We are woefully underprepared for the new normal, and our most-impacted communities also lack contingency resources to stay safe and healthy through heat waves, wildfire and other disasters.

I and Spark Northwest urge you to fund accessible, reliable heating and cooling through Senate Bill 868, as well as community resilience hubs through House Bill 2990. Both bills give priority funding to communities where needs are the greatest. Installing electric heat pumps and standing up community resilience hubs will keep communities safe through all sorts of weather, while also supporting local economies, reducing disaster relief expenses, and unlocking millions of dollars in new federal funds through the Inflation Reduction Act. Thank you for all the work you are doing to craft a budget that will support resilient communities and advance environmental justice.

Yours,

John Seng

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