

TESTIMONY TO WAYS AND MEANS for
Support of increased Funding for the
BUILDING RESILIENCE PACKAGE OF BILLS

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee, for the record my name is **Wendy Woods and I live in Corvallis**. I join my fellow Oregonians in saying that Oregon can't wait, because our planet cannot wait. The recent IPCC report tells us we are out of time to solve the climate crisis. We must invest now in solving our climate challenges or things will get worse, will be irreversible, and more expensive later. We cannot wait!

- **Key investments outlined in the [People's Budget](#), including to increase climate resilience, are not adequately funded under the Co-Chairs Budget Framework.**
- *My own home is an example of what homes will need if they are to be retrofitted to protect people from climate disasters.*

Five years ago, I moved into a typical, 50 year-old ranch style home in Corvallis. It came with a gas furnace and gas water heater and an older air conditioner, which was very expensive to operate.

*In summer, when warm weather arrived, the house soaked up heat and stayed too hot all night. In winter the drafty windows made it feel cold. I consulted with a couple of experts trained in Passive House methods, who recommended a **deep energy retrofit and conversion of furnace and water heater from gas to all-electric heat pump technology that both heats and cools**. Now, the heat pump cools much less expensively than the old AC.*

After the retrofit, the overheating and draft problems were solved. My electric bill in January was exactly half what it had been before the retrofit even though I was now charging an electric car as well. And I had no gas bill, saving about a thousand dollars a year on utilities.

Notably, during the 2020 wildfires, when my neighbors had trouble keeping the smoke out of their homes, one of them needed to move in with me. She could not breathe in her own home. My Indow Windows (an interior storm window that seals out drafts) successfully excluded all smoke from my own home, keeping the indoor air clean at a time that it was dangerous to breathe the air outdoors.

- By fully funding the Resilient, Efficient Buildings bill package (Senate Bills 868 – 871 and House Bill 3166) we'll gain better health, lower costs, and a safer climate. The package increases climate resilience, with more insulation and better insulated windows and doors, and helps Oregonians transition to clean electricity for both heating and cooling. Retrofits will be necessary for survival.
- A modest investment today will help families have safer and cleaner homes, help communities reduce climate pollution, and create local clean energy jobs and will help our state weather any coming recession.
- I want to add my voice to the many people you will hear to make sure that Oregon doesn't miss this historic opportunity of IRA dollars for retrofitting buildings.
- **Legislators must invest in building retrofits to prepare communities for climate now, rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong state savings.**

Oregon cannot wait! We must invest now in solving our climate challenges or things will get worse and more expensive later.
We cannot wait!

Thank you for caring,
Wendy Woods, Ph.D.