

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3081

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 3081 because Oregonians need more help navigating hundreds of available energy efficiency upgrades and rebates.

As a retired engineer with 35 years of professional experience, I decided in 2017 to install a central air conditioning system in my home and a solar photo electric (PV) system to power it. To do that required that I first install a new, 200 amp electrical service and electrical panel. That required finding local electricians to do the work and evaluating their proposals for the work. Next I had to contact local solar PV installers and evaluate their proposals for the solar system. Finally, I had to contact local Heating Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractors and evaluate their proposals for the AC System. The entire process from initial investigations to completion of all construction, including filing my tax return to take advantage of Federal Energy Tax Credits, took over 9 months.

Because of my engineering knowledge of solar and HVAC systems and my experience managing projects, I was able to do this complex and time consuming home improvement project and enjoy it at the same time.

However, most Oregonians do not have the knowledge, experience, confidence, and time to do energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. They need help navigating hundreds of different incentives and cash rebates for housing upgrades like energy-efficient heat pumps, better insulation, and sturdier doors and windows. One Stop Shop 1.0 (aka HIPPO) was created to collect all federal, state, utility, and local programs in one place. It's time to turn this passive search tool into an active helping hand.

I urge you to support HB 3081.

Sincerely,
Walt Mintkeski
Portland, OR