



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

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

Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter strongly supports HB 3081, which moves forward our values of a just transition to clean energy, climate justice, and a fair representative democracy right here in Oregon.

Oregon has a variety of energy efficiency incentive programs – for items such as efficient heat pumps, improved insulation, sturdier doors and windows, and clean electric induction cooking– to help us upgrade our homes and buildings for better health, lower costs, less pollution, and climate resilience. Yet it can be time-consuming and difficult to find and apply for these incentive programs. In particular, people caring for children or other family members, people working two jobs, and people whose first language isn't English are at a disadvantage in accessing incentive programs they are eligible for, and therefore at a disadvantage in improving the efficiency and resiliency of their homes.

HB 3081 helps level the playing field by turning the passive search tool developed in [One Stop Shop 1.0](#) (aka HIPPO) into an active helping hand where Oregonians will get direct assistance from someone who speaks their language and lives in their part of the state to ask questions, connect with qualified contractors, get clear information about which incentives they are eligible for, and to complete projects. These completed projects lower energy bills, improve health, and protect residents from extreme heat and wildfire smoke. As more people are able to access these incentives, more good, local jobs are supported. When many households are able to make these improvements, everyone wins with reduced health-and-climate harming pollution, less strain on the grid, and safer communities.

As Oregonians struggle to adapt to climate-driven extreme weather and disasters, every Oregonian should have access to life-changing home upgrades that lower energy bills, improve health, and protect us from extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other harms worsened by climate change. About half of homes and apartments where Oregonians live were built before 1980. This housing is extremely energy inefficient and in need of repairs. Frontline communities, including people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and people in rural areas, are often unable to afford these repairs without help.

HB 3081 reduces this disparity by making it easier for people of all incomes and abilities to access energy efficiency incentive programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,  
Helena Birecki  
Interim Chair, Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

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About the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. [climaterealitypdx.com/](http://climaterealitypdx.com/), [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org)