

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

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Isaac, and I live in Portland. I am retired from Portland General Electric (PGE), where I spent some of my career connecting PGE customers to Energy Trust energy efficiency programs. I have seen how hard it can be for people to find the programs that can make energy efficiency improvements affordable. I also know from my work and personal experience how increasing one's home's energy efficiency can substantially increase home comfort and safety while lowering utility bills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

When it comes to energy efficiency, homeowners, landlords and renters may qualify for a number of Federal, state, local and utility/Energy Trust programs. Unfortunately often the only person they speak to is a contractor, whose knowledge on what money-saving programs they qualify for may be limited. In addition, contractors don't always encourage the most efficient solutions, simply because it isn't necessarily their job to do. HB3081 would allow consumers to have an independent, knowledgeable person to contact who can help them navigate all the programs they qualify for and find them resources so that they can evaluate the best solutions for their situation. It would add an important dimension to incentives.oregon.gov--the live person many people need to answer their questions and be their trusted advisor. After all, most of us aren't energy efficiency experts.

Getting the most efficient appliances and building upgrades in insulation and ventilation for Oregonians now will pay off in terms of bill savings and in resiliency in the face of future severe weather events. I urge you to support HB3081.

Thank you,
Lauren Isaac
Portland