

Submitter: Leah Samelson
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:

My name is Leah Samelson, and I live in Phoenix, Oregon, and I am writing because I believe this bill is an important step to ensuring that all the action already taken to support energy efficiency gets implemented in my community. I support HB 3081 because Oregonians need more support navigating hundreds of available energy efficiency upgrades and rebates.

While there are many options for Oregonians to upgrade their homes and buildings for better health, lower costs, less pollution, and higher resilience, these options are difficult for individuals to find and apply for. My community has a lot of new construction and new home owners, and it would be meaningful for us to have easily accessible information on how to make our homes as efficient and up to date as possible.

Since many of these programs have different rules and requirements, they can be complex and overwhelming to navigate. Having live support to help users navigate the many available upgrades and rebates could be the difference between an individual's ability to apply to a program versus not. Every Oregonian should have access to life-changing home upgrades that lower energy bills, improve health, and protect us from extreme heat and wildfire smoke. My community is especially impacted by wildfires, and it's more important than ever that we have the opportunity to access programs meant to help us be more resilient. We must make it easier for people of all incomes and abilities to stay in their homes and make housing resilient. The passage of One Stop Shop 1.0 (aka HIPPO) was great, and now it's time to turn this passive search tool into something that people can really use.

We can create good-paying jobs in clean energy and help communities that are most impacted by climate change by making it easier for people to invest in climate resilience. With One Stop Shop 2.0, we can help people afford the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable system that benefits everyone – from workers in clean energy to families struggling to make ends meet.

I urge you to support HB 3081

Sincerely,
Leah Samelson
Phoenix, Oregon