

Submitter: Kristi Mellum
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Ways and Means Roadshow Written Testimony
Stance: Neutral
Kristi Mellum
Bend, OR

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Mellum, and I am a Bend resident. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on issues important to me.

I urge you to prioritize climate resilience and protect our progress. Everyone deserves a safe, energy-efficient, and affordable home. In Bend, I've seen firsthand the impacts of wildfire smoke and rising energy costs. I want to do everything possible to reduce wildfires and ensure cleaner, healthier summers. If I can make one home more energy efficient, imagine what we could accomplish statewide with the right support.

Yet, as a renter and hopeful homeowner, I wouldn't even know where to start. Many Oregonians want to reduce their carbon footprint but struggle to navigate home upgrades, incentives, and finding trusted contractors. Without clear guidance, opportunities for energy savings and wildfire prevention are lost. That's why I support One Stop Shop 2.0 (HB 3081) a program designed to connect Oregonians with contractors, live support, and financial incentives for energy-efficient upgrades. It simplifies the process so homeowners and renters can make improvements without confusion or frustration. Investing in clean energy solutions will lower utility bills and create good-paying jobs, benefiting both individuals and our economy.

I urge the committee to support HB 3081 so all Oregonians can access the tools they need to make their homes more energy efficient. This program will reduce emissions, empower communities, and build a more sustainable Oregon. Please take action to pass this bill and help transition our state to a cleaner energy future.

Thank you for your time, and for investing in our communities' futures in the face of an ever-changing climate.