



Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee,

Building Resilience is a growing, statewide coalition of climate justice and public health, business and labor, faith and frontline communities, environmental, family, and youth organizations, and thousands of individual Oregonians advocating for healthy, affordable, resilient homes and buildings that run on clean energy.

As utility bills spike and heat waves, wildfires, and extreme weather grow more intense, Oregonians are left less resilient, healthy, and safe. We must act in the short term to get utility rate hikes under control, and in the long term to help people make upgrades to homes and buildings that lower bills, improve energy efficiency, and make our communities safer. We urge you to protect Oregon now.

With your leadership in the last several years, we've passed the most equitable legislation in state history to help Oregon families to access more affordable, cleaner energy sources to lower utility bills, better prepare for and respond to extreme weather, and breathe cleaner, safer air. But we still have work to do, and these programs need your continued support or we risk an enormous backslide, especially at a moment when a hostile federal government is either withdrawing or attacking these same life-changing measures for Oregon households and small businesses.

We are calling on you to support continued funding for *existing, popular state programs* to ensure Oregonians can heat and cool their homes affordably – without having to choose between keeping the lights on or putting food on the table.

Your current budget framework contains no continued support for these programs, which Oregonians are just getting used to as a helping hand to lower utility bills and increase health, comfort and safety. As you finalize the budget for the next biennium, please include support for these urgently needed and life-changing programs:

Lowering utility bills and increasing comfort and safety–

Reinvest in the **Oregon Department of Energy's Heat Pumps incentives– \$30 million for Rental Home Heat Pump** and **\$15 million for Community Heat Pump Deployment Programs**.

For many families, a heat pump can be a lifeline. Heat pumps mean lower utility bills when costs are skyrocketing, safety from deadly heat and winter extremes, and being able to afford and stay in housing. These programs help keep people safe, housed, and secure in their communities.

One Stop Shop 2.0 (HB 3081): Oregonians need more support navigating the hundreds of available programs to upgrade their homes and buildings through incentives and rebates for efficient heat pumps, improved insulation, sturdier doors and windows, and clean electric cooking. One Stop Shop 2.0 will help families get direct assistance from someone in their area to make their home projects more affordable. Please include up to **\$8 million for navigation services and support** in this bill.

Climate Resilience and Support for Rural Communities–

Ensure our communities are prepared for extreme weather events. Heat domes, wildfires, ice storms, drought, and extreme weather are growing more common and more devastating – and taking a serious toll on our health, safety, and economy.

Reinvest in the Community Resilience Hubs program at the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management – **\$10 million for Community Resilience Hubs** (HB 3170) and networks across the state to coordinate and provide access to resources and services for vulnerable populations during disasters.

We are at a tipping point. Last year was the hottest year ever recorded on Earth, and Oregon has been on the frontlines of this climate crisis. More extreme weather, more severe droughts, and a more intense wildfire season have devastated families and communities across the state. These harms are not felt evenly. People with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and working folks are routinely hit the hardest by our climate crisis.

Investing in climate resiliency means investing in community resiliency. We all deserve to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and heat and cool our homes without facing outrageous utility bills. This is not an area to cut back in now. As we tackle Oregon's housing crisis, we must ensure that families have access to homes — both new and old — that will keep them safe from extreme weather and be affordable to heat and cool.

Sincerely,

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