



FIRESPEAKING

MASONRY HEATERS • WOOD-FIRED OVENS

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February 12, 2018

To:

Senator Jeff Merkeley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Jeff Merkeley,

I'm writing to ask your support for the "Biomass Thermal Utilization Act of 2017" (S.1480 and H.R. 3161), also known as the BTU Act, that would qualify modern biomass heating systems for the same investment tax credits that already exist for all other renewable energy technologies. This legislation was recently introduced.

I am a contractor from Eugene who designs and builds masonry heaters for residential home heating. A masonry heater is a highly efficient wood-burning appliance used for home heating and cooking, which was developed in northern Europe over the last five centuries. The principles are the same for all masonry heaters, which are designed to burn cordwood. A short, very hot fire; the gases circulate through a series of channels before reaching the chimney, to capture the heat; and enough masonry mass, whether in brick or stone, to absorb the heat and radiate it slowly into the living space

Masonry heaters are efficient, clean-burning, use a local fuel (cordwood) in a sustainable manner, and reduce our reliance on imported and often expensive fossil fuels.

By putting masonry heaters (and other biomass appliances, such as pellet stoves) on a level playing field with other renewable energy technologies, the BTU Act would have a significant impact on our businesses and on the Maine economy. It would keep more heating dollars in the local community, create jobs in the wood industries (logging, transportation, cordwood sales), and have a positive ripple effect in our rural communities.

Please consider supporting S. 1480, the BTU Act, in any clean energy tax extenders legislation taken up in the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Max Edleson
Owner - Firespeaking, LLC