

January 31, 2022

Chair Senator Kayse Jama, Vice Chair Senator Dick Anderson and Members of the Housing and Development Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1536.

I have lived in Oregon twenty years. Since moving here I have witnessed dramatic changes in our weather especially over the last 5 years. The summers are record breaking both in temperature and the number of days of the over 100 degrees. Last year almost 100 Oregonians died from exposure to the heat. They did not have access to air conditioning whether they owned their homes or rented their homes.

SB 1536 allows renters to install portable units, requires cooling in rentals that are under construction or newly remodeled and incentives for owners to provide cooling in rentals. It also authorizes the State Department of Energy to make loans to owners to upgrade rentals to support cooling and rebates for heat pump purchases and installations.

A companion bill HB 4058 allocates \$5 million to Oregon Health Authority for emergency air conditioner deployment to residents most at risk in heat events. Another \$10 million is allocated to Oregon Department of Energy for efficient heat pump incentives. These monies will allow local community organizations to develop programs prioritizing low income and environmental justice communities in the distribution of cooling equipment.

Humans cannot tolerate extended periods of extreme heat. SB 1536 and HB 4058 will help prevent future deaths from heat exposure of our fellow citizens.

I urge you to vote yes on Senate Bill 1536.

Respectfully,

Regina Ayars
Ashland, Oregon