

January 31, 2022

Chair Pam Marsh, Vice Chair Zach Hudson, Vice Chair David Brock Smith and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4058.

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.

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.

A companion SB 1536 focuses on renters allowing them to install portable units, requiring cooling in rentals that are under construction or newly remodeled and incentives for owners to provide cooling in rentals.

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

I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 4058.

Respectfully,

Regina Ayars  
Ashland, Oregon