

Submitter: Meg Bowman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4058

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Hudson, Brock Smith, and members of the Committee,

I ask you to vote yes on HB 4058 Relating to Heat Relief, Declaring an Emergency. During last summer's heat dome event nearly 100 Oregonians died. Most of them were older, lived alone and had no working air conditioning according to an analysis by the Medical Examiner. The type of housing people lived in was also a clear factor in the danger posed by the heat; more than half of those who died lived in apartments or multifamily units.

Heat domes are directly related to climate change, and each summer is proving to be hotter than the last. We have a responsibility to protect our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable.

I'm a strong supporter of provisions to fund and install heat pumps through the Healthy Homes program, which passed in 2021. Heat pump HVAC systems can both heat and cool and are electric. Expanding the use of electric systems like these will help slow the root cause of climate change, the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. We must take all possible actions to save lives.

Thank you,

Meg Bowman

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