

Submitter: Harriet Cooke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4058

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Hudson, Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

I strongly urge a YES on HB 4058 to create a program to acquire and distribute air conditioners and air purifiers on emergency basis to individuals eligible for medical assistance. This will save lives relating to heat relief, declaring an Emergency.

Furthermore, I enthusiastically support the provisions to fund and install heat pumps through the Healthy Homes program passed in 2021. Heat pump HVAC systems can both heat and cool, and are electric. Expanding the use of electric systems like heat pumps will help us stop the root cause of climate change, which is exacerbated by using fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. Climate Change is a climate justice issue. Low income households are least responsible for our carbon emissions and bear the greatest burden when unable to afford cooling systems. Thank you for attending to this important issue!