



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

SB 1536 – Portable Cooling Devices

Testimony by Terry J. Harris, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
Senate Committee on Housing and Development - February 2, 2022

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in favor of SB 1536**, a measure that would help eliminate barriers to the installation and use of portable cooling devices in rental properties. As the horrific heat dome experience last summer proved, a warming climate’s deadly consequences will not be limited to faraway places. In future extreme heat events, we need to be sure that the most vulnerable in our society are not left behind in sweltering conditions to sicken and die unnecessarily. We agree with this legislation that the legal contours of “habitability” must necessarily change to adapt to the conditions of a warming climate.

The measures afforded under this bill are reasonable, cost-effective, and rightly encourage energy efficiency. And the bill provides helpful funding assistance as we make this emergency transition to a new warmer normal. We thank the sponsors and the committee for their important work to bring this bill forward, and we urge a favorable vote.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

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