



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 22, 2023

To: **Chair Pam Marsh**

Climate, Energy and Environment

Re: **HB 3056** — Extends Residential Heat Pump Fund until to January 2, 2026 — **Support**

We wish to express support for HB 3056, one of the League of Women Voters (LWVOR) priority bills for this session.

Since 2007, LWVOR has fervently advocated for a coordinated government response to global climate change and opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More recently, the League has expanded our work to focus on climate justice: the impacts of climate change on indigenous communities, and people of color, coastal and rural areas, and families in economic transition.

The residential heat pump fund was created by [SB 1536 \(2022\)](#) as part of a cooling package in response to the Heat Dome Event in Oregon in 2021. The current bill extends the fund end date from January 2, 2025, to January 2, 2026. Many low income [households](#) do not have air conditioning and thus are vulnerable to such extraordinary heat events. The current law offers incentives out of the fund to low and moderate income households for purchasing and installing heat pumps. Heat pumps provide both heat in winter and air conditioning in summer and can save up to 60% on energy bills for some recipients, with the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a roughly equivalent amount.

We must rise to the challenge and meet the threats posed by climate change, especially the impact on the most vulnerable Americans. Oregonians deserve healthy, resilient homes and buildings that run on clean energy. Providing grants and rebates for heat pumps to low-income households, whether owner occupied or rentals, takes advantage of savings in energy efficiency and lowers the energy burden for persons in frontline communities. This has a substantial impact on a community's health, economic welfare and environmental resiliency.

HB 3056 will help Oregonians adapt to the effects of climate change projected to impact our region in the coming years. This bill continues to reserve 25% of the monies available for grants and rebates to benefit low- and moderate-income households and 25% for landlords of affordable housing.

We urge your support for HB 3056.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency

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Climate Emergency