

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and members,

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today. My name is Abasi Umoh. I'm an In-Homes Auditor at Community Energy Project, a recipient of CHPDP funding. CEP is a non-profit that partners with communities on the frontlines of climate change to create more resilient, efficient, and healthy homes.

I am the project manager of a program called "Cooling Gresham." Like the name suggests, the goal of the project is to help low income Gresham residents by installing life saving high efficiency heat pumps (HP) at no cost in order to bring cooling to homes without AC. When I began this work, I had no idea how often I'd be speaking with families that not only didn't have the ability to cool their homes during our now annual heat waves, but also had broken furnaces with no plans or hope to fix them. Almost half of the homes we've brought cooling to through this program did not have heat. For years, these families have been relying on ineffective space heaters that shot their monthly electric bills up between \$400 and \$900 hundred dollars. We installed a HP in a home on December 30th, and in a half a billing period, the electric bill reduced by 42% from last year's same billing period!

CHPDP funding has been instrumental to the success of this project. This is a real in-homes story that I'll call the homeowner Adam for the sake of his privacy. Adam is the patriarch of a 3 generation home. He's lived in his mobile home for 10+ years and in that time, has used space heaters to keep his family, including his young grandchildren, warm. Since we could rely on CHPDP to fill the gap from our other funding sources, Adam and his family now have central heating and cooling for the first time in his grandkids' lives! This family of 5 no longer has to choose which rooms to heat and which rooms to abandon for the cold season. Their electric usage is no longer straining our grid, *and* they're no longer staring down a \$800 winter bill.

This is what CHPDP means to Oregonians. This is the positive impact it has on our most vulnerable residents. What I've shared with you today is why I urge you to support measure HB2567.