



Date: April 16, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Andrew Kihn, SEIU 503 member

RE: Support for HB 2567 A

Dear Chair Janeen Sollman, Vice-Chair David Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

I write as a member of SEIU 503 to endorse HB 2567 A, which bolsters Oregon's popular and successful Heat Pump Deployment Program. The bill expands access to low-cost, energy-efficient heating/cooling systems for low-income, rural Oregonians and extends the sunset date of the Rental Home Heat Pump Program six additional years, into 2032. The bill also contains common sense requirements for the security of program applicant and participant personal information.

SEIU represents 72,000 workers across Oregon. Many of our members live and work in rural communities and are increasingly vulnerable to the life-threatening consequences of climate change as Oregon summers grow hotter and extreme weather events occur with greater frequency and intensity. These same members face a chronic shortage of affordable housing and towering energy costs. Addressing climate change and improving housing affordability are core priorities of SEIU 503. Heat pumps serve both ends; they are substantially more energy-efficient than traditional heating systems and can yield between \$300 and \$650 dollars of savings a year for the average American household.

At breakneck pace, the Trump Administration has—through executive fiat—undermined significant federal advancements in renewable energy deployment, environmental justice, and energy equity, with sweeping consequences across the United States and tangible repercussions here in Oregon. Rural Oregon communities are particularly vulnerable to these incursions. HB 2567 presents an opportunity for Oregon to move a step closer to attaining its ambitious energy efficiency targets while fortifying its progress in environmental justice and energy equity in disadvantaged communities at a time when their futures are most imperiled.

For these reasons, I strongly supports HB 2567 A and urges your “yes” vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.