



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

February 2, 2022

Representative Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

Everyone deserves to live in a healthy and safe home. The City of Portland supports SB 1536 and HB 4058 to protect renters and vulnerable Oregonians in extreme heat events, such as the heat dome in the summer of 2021 during which at least 96 Oregonians died. Climate change-induced extreme heat events will become more frequent. Oregon needs greater protections for low-income and vulnerable households during extreme weather events.

SB 1536 will require landlords to allow installation of portable air conditioning units and provide cooled spaces for tenants in certain conditions. The bill also provides funding for loan and rebate programs to help landlords pay for efficient heating and cooling equipment, as well as additional grants for shelters that provide emergency cooling and heating during extreme weather events. HB 4058 will establish a program to distribute emergency air conditioners and air filters to eligible households through the Oregon Health Authority, the bill also creates funding for efficient heat pump incentives prioritized for low-income and environmental justice communities, establishes a heat pump technical advisory council, addresses workforce equity issues, and directs the Oregon Public Utility Commission to study methods to address energy bill spikes during extreme weather events.

Both bills work in concert with the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Heat Response Program, which is partnering with community-based organizations to distribute 15,000 energy efficient heat pump cooling units to vulnerable households.

The City of Portland urges your support of SB 1536 and HB 4058 to protect vulnerable Oregonians against future extreme heat events and to provide resources for the transition to energy-efficient heat pump technology.

Sincerely,



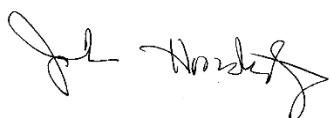
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