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Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB4058, the Emergency Heat Relief for Communities bill. Rogue Climate was founded in 2013 in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon. We serve and work alongside Southern Oregon and South Coast communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, and communities of color, by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment. We do so through leadership development, political education, fostering conversations, and campaigns for policies that benefit our communities.

Over the past several years, Rogue Climate has run Energize programs, in partnership with Spark Northwest and others, to increase the use of heating and cooling pumps as a strategy for cost and energy savings and job creation in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, and Coos counties. More recently we are hoping that this program, or programs like this, can also become a key strategy for dealing with extreme heat and smoke in our region, rural energy burden, transitioning off bulk fuels, job creation, and getting energy efficient cooling systems into the homes of community members that need it most. This bill provides a way to build off successful programs like ours and ensure that the benefits can be accessible statewide.

Rogue Climate's Energize programs are a great example of the community benefits that are possible when affordable, energy efficient heating and cooling systems, like heating and cooling pumps are made accessible to low-income and rural communities. For our pre-2021 programs, there have been 248 installations in Coos, Douglas, Josephine, and Jackson County as well as 28 jobs created or retained.<sup>1</sup> Average install sees energy savings of 50 – 70 percent. Installation of heating and cooling pumps result in incredible community benefits, including savings 25-50% on utility bills, 3 times more efficient than traditional electric heat, heating and cooling capacity to meet extreme temperatures, and air filtration for smoky days.

Chloe Eberlein, a North Bend community member, shared about her experience getting a heating and cooling pump through the Energize South Coast Program:

"There are many benefits. **Firstly, the cost savings.** I am all about saving money being a single income household... On average, I would spend around \$140 on my largest power bill. Now, I think my highest was \$74. **It is much more efficient.** It is also so much **more comfortable in my house.** This past

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<sup>1</sup> We are still working with the contractor on our final 2021 installation numbers in Coos County.



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summer we had a few hot days and to have AC was incredible! I have never had AC and it was very nice. Also, **during the fires it was nice to know my system was cleaning my air.** Lastly, my system is so quiet...It's very nice to not have a boisterous system. **The cost savings on the Energize South Coast installation made my installation possible. For working class individuals like myself I think the program is incredible.** I wish my parents would have signed up for the initiative. **My installation was simple...**and effective for my home. I recommend anyone for this program. Start saving money and work hard so you can take advantage of this great service!"

Rogue Climate has learned through our Energize programs that heating and cooling pumps are good for our communities in many significant ways. The Emergency Heat Relief for Communities bill would remove barriers to accessing cooling devices for the Oregonians who need them most, invest in good jobs across the state, benefit rural and coastal communities, who are disproportionately energy burdened, improve community health, and create access for heat and cooling pumps as an efficient, cost-effective solution across the state. We hope that the cooling, energy efficiency, and affordability benefits that Energize program participants have experienced can be expanded and offered to communities statewide through the Emergency heat relief for communities bill.

As the climate changes and Oregon experiences more dangerously hot, cold, and smoky days, it's important that all Oregonians have access to energy efficient heating and cooling pumps or emergency air conditioners until they can get heat pumps installed. Even on the coast, where temperatures are often moderate, the extreme heat this summer impacted many, especially those without home cooling. The Emergency Heat Relief for Communities bill will help remove barriers to accessing cooling devices for the Oregonians who need them most. We urge the committee members to support HB4058.

Thank you,

Allie Rosenbluth

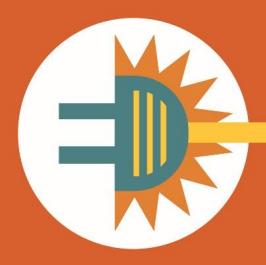
Campaigns Director  
Rogue Climate

# The Benefits of Ductless Heat Pumps for Communities

Lessons from the Energize South Coast and Energize Rogue Programs

January 12, 2022 ~ House Committee on Energy & Environment





# Energize South Coast + Rogue

- Group purchase program to increase DHP installations.
- 248 Installations and growing!
- 28 Jobs created or retained across Southwest Oregon.



# Community Benefits of DHP's:

- Savings 50-70% on current electricity heating bills
- Energy efficiency - up to 3 times more efficient than traditional electric heat
- Simple installation
- Heating and cooling capacity to meet extreme temperatures
- Air filtration for smokey days
- Job creation - 28 jobs created through the Energize program
- High, growing demand



“There are many benefits. Firstly, the cost savings. I am all about saving money being a single income household... On average, I would spend around \$140 on my largest power bill. Now, I think my highest was \$74. It is much more efficient.

It is also so much more comfortable in my house. This past summer we had a few hot days and to have AC was incredible! I have never had AC and it was very nice. Also, during the fires it was nice to know my system was cleaning my air. Lastly, my system is so quiet...It's very nice to not have a boisterous system.”

~ Chloe Eberlein, Coos County community member

**"The cost savings on the EnergizeSouth Coast installation made my installation possible. For working class individuals like myself I think the program is incredible.**

I wish my parents would have signed up for the initiative. **My installation was simple**...and effective for my home.

I recommend anyone for this program. Start saving money and work hard so you can take advantage of this great service!"

~ Chloe Eberlein, Coos County community member

# Why Emergency Heat Relief for communities?

- Remove barriers to accessing cooling devices for the Oregonians who need them most.
- Invest in good jobs across the state.
- Benefit rural and coastal communities, who are disproportionately energy burdened.
- Improve community health.
- Create access to Ductless Heat Pumps as an efficient, cost-effective solution across the state.