



Families For Climate

February 2, 2022

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to discuss SB 1536-1. Families for Climate supports this bill, as we believe Oregon needs to do everything it can to protect our communities who are most impacted by climate change.

Last year, 116 Oregonians died during a record-breaking heat dome. Many of those who passed away were low-income renters without access to life-saving cooling devices. As temperatures rise globally, we can expect to see an increase in heat waves, wildfires, droughts and severe storms. It's critical for Oregon to prepare for these events and address the impacts they will have on Oregon's most vulnerable communities.

SB 1536-1 will ensure that Oregonians have access to affordable, efficient and safe heating and cooling by directing the Oregon Department of Energy to study the opportunities and barriers around ensuring that all affordable housing in Oregon has cooling; providing \$2 million in funding for extreme weather shelters including cooling, warming, and cleaner air shelters; and removing barriers for renters to install portable air conditioners while maintaining building safety, and providing alternative compliance for landlords with rental units that can't support air conditioners.

This is a thoughtful bill that will save lives. We urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,

Nora Lehmann
Board Co-President,
Families for Climate

Leonard Barrett
Board Co-President,
Families for Climate

