



Coos-Curry/North Bend City
Housing Authority

Linn Benton Housing Authority

Home Forward (Multnomah County)

Homes for Good (Lane County)

Housing Authority of Clackamas County

Housing Authority of Douglas County

Housing Authority of Jackson County

Housing Authority of Lincoln County

Housing Authority of Malheur County

Housing Authority of the County of Umatilla

Housing Authority of Washington County

Housing Authority of Yamhill County

Housing Works (Central Oregon)

Josephine Housing & Community
Development Council

Klamath County Housing Authority

Linn Benton Housing Authority

Marion County Housing Authority

Mid-Columbia Housing Authority

Northeast Oregon Housing Authority

Northwest Oregon Housing Authority

Salem Housing Authority

Vancouver Housing Authority

West Valley Housing Authority

19 March 2025

Housing Authorities of Oregon testimony on SB 54

To: Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

The Housing Authorities of Oregon are, collectively, the largest providers of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. There are 22 Housing Authorities that serve all 36 counties. Our goal is to provide a safe, affordable place for Oregonians with low incomes to call home.

The Housing Authorities of Oregon appreciate the goals of SB 54. Many public housing authorities already have installed air conditioning in all of their housing units. Some are working towards that goal, and in some cases, cooling units are not needed.

With this in mind, we have some suggested amendments for HB 54 that we think will improve its ability to achieve its goals.

1. Include funding for affordable housing providers that must upgrade old buildings with limited budgets and units that are rent-restricted.
2. Include a 'coastal exemption'. Current extreme heat events do not occur on the coast, and spending money on statutorily required cooling systems would not be an efficient use of scarce resources in coastal communities.
3. Amend language to alter specific temperature requirements. As introduced, the bill would require that when the outdoor temperature is 81 degrees, rooms would have to be cooled to 66 degrees. 80 degrees is a good goal for health and safety reasons, and the bill should aspire for housing providers to install cooling systems "**designed to be** capable of cooling rooms to no more than 80 degrees Fahrenheit (80° F.) in each habitable space at a distance of 3 feet above floor level." Housing providers will do their best to provide the right



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stable housing options for all Oregonians haoregon.org

- systems, and should not be held liable if the machines don't live up to their promised capabilities. This approach also gives needed precision as to how the cooling should be measured to meet compliance.
4. Occasionally, tenants may not want cooling units to be installed and may not give permission for cooling to be installed. Housing providers should be exempted in these situations until the unit turns over.

Thank you for considering these suggestions. We look forward to working with the proponents of this bill to reach a successful conclusion.

For further information, please contact:

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