

Submitter: Pat DeLaquil

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4058

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair: Representative Pam Marsh, Vice Chairs Representative Zach Hudson, and Representative David Brock Smith.

Subject: HB 4058 – Emergency Heat Relief and Heat Pumps

I urge members of the committee to support HB 4058, which provides much needed emergency heat relief to vulnerable Oregonians. Last summer's Heat Dome event killed nearly 100 people, most of whom were older, lived in apartments or multifamily units and had no working air conditioning! As climate change worsens, we are going to see more of these events in the future, and the state has a responsibility to help protect those who are most vulnerable.

In addition, the HB 4058 establishes a Heat Pump Deployment Program which will provide grants to tribal and community-based entities to enable financial assistance for residents to purchase and install heat pumps and related upgrades. It also establishes a Heat Pump Deployment Advisory Council to oversee the program and directs funds to develop heat pump technician training programs.

Finally, HB 4058 provides funds to install heat pumps through the Healthy Homes program passed in 2021. Heat pump are electric, and they are the perfect alternative to using fossil fuels in our homes and businesses. Not only are they more efficient, and pollute less, they are more cost-effective in most climates

I strongly support HB 4058 because it supports one of the three critical strategies for rapid decarbonization of our energy system, namely converting our homes and buildings to all electric. The other two strategies are cleaning up our electricity generation, which we are doing through HB 2021, and transitioning our vehicles to electricity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat DeLaquil

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