



The Climate Reality Project®

PORTLAND CHAPTER

February 13, 2024

To: Senate Housing and Development Committee
In support of SB 1530

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Harrington testifying in strong support of SB 1530, the Healthy Homes Program, on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter. I am the Legislative Committee Chair.

Climate pollution is here and felt by all Oregonians – whether from air and water pollution, extreme heat and drought, wildfires, or erratic and intense storms. Lives have been lost due to the increasing number and intensity of wildfires and due to extreme heat and cold. Our family felt the effects when my granddaughter, Kinley, was born in June 2021 in Portland and came home in 116 degree heat. Her family was fortunate to have air conditioning and their neighborhood did not lose power. Others were not so fortunate. Lower income households in particular feel the effects of extreme heat and cold and air pollution, lacking the resources to manage in these difficult situations which are becoming increasingly common.

SB 1530 is a comprehensive bill that will help disadvantaged families obtain and retain housing. It improves families' health by reducing exposure to toxins including mold, lead, and radon. Energy efficiency upgrades save money and improve the liveability of homes. Eviction prevention services avoid the downward spiral families experience when they lose housing.

SB 1530's benefits are comprehensive and efficiently complement already established community resources. This bill leverages local governments, nonprofit organizations, housing authorities, and tribal nations, taking advantage of the knowledge and trust these groups have built with the residents they serve.

Recognizing the need, in 2021 Oregon invested initial funding in this program; however, it will run out of funds before the next budget cycle. SB 1530 is currently distributing \$15 million of one-time funding for community groups who do home repairs across the entire state. A legislative investment to support this program will keep rural and low-income Oregonians in their homes. This bill recognizes that Oregon's housing crisis negatively impacts seniors, low-income, and frontline families. It understands and addresses the complex nature of this issue, requiring a comprehensive approach.

Climate Reality appreciates your attention to this critically important issue and urges your support of SB 1530.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington
Volunteer, Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter
Legislative Committee, Co-Chair
Volunteer, MCAT
Member, Building Resilience Coalition

About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at www.climaterealityproject.org.