



THE BUREAU OF  
**PLANNING &  
SUSTAINABILITY**

February 14, 2024

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

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Andersen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, I am writing today to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1529 with the –2 amendment. This crucial piece of legislation will allow the Oregon Health Authority to distribute air conditioners in anticipation of emergencies or provide reimbursement for air conditioners, up to a certain amount.

In response to 2021's deadly heatwave, the City of Portland implemented a similar program, which provides low-income Portlanders with efficient portable heat pump and cooling devices. The program, *Cooling Portland: A PCEF-funded climate resilience program*, aims to reduce heat risk to vulnerable populations by distributing and installing portable heat pump/cooling units in households, prioritizing those with seniors, low-income people and people of color. Distribution of units began in May of 2022, and implementation will take place over 5 years to distribute up to 15,000 heat pumps and cooling units. The program also promotes efficient installation and use, as well as connections to programs that lower the costs of energy bills. We have seen first-hand the impact this program has on the safety of Portlanders and encourage the state to take similar actions.

Weather patterns have indicated that we can expect summer temperatures to continue to rise, and this legislation can help save lives as we provide support to communities who are most impacted by deadly heat waves. For this reason, and many more, the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability urges you to support Senate Bill 1529 with the –2 amendment.

Thank you,

Donnie Oliveira  
Director  
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, City of Portland



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | [www.portland.gov/bps](http://www.portland.gov/bps)  
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