EMERGENCY HEAT RELIEF FOR OREGONIANS BILLS

In the Summer of 2021, Oregon experienced a record heat wave, the second worst natural disaster in our state's recorded history. Many people were made more vulnerable because they did not have access to life-saving, cooling technologies, like air conditioning and heat + cooling pumps. To help protect more families, we must remove barriers to installing these appliances and incentivize the most efficient and effective devices. We must act immediately to ensure:

HB 4058 - Emergency Heat Relief for Communities

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\$5 million to Oregon Health Authority for **emergency air conditioner and air filtration deployment** to complement existing wildfire work.



\$10 million to Oregon Department of Energy for efficient heat + cooling pump incentives prioritized to low-income and environmental justice communities, especially rural communities who utilize bulk fuels like wood, oil, and propane or the electric resistance heating that is found in many manufactured homes.



Acknowledgement that the technologies that keep families safe during heat waves, cold snaps, and bad air quality days can cause





energy bill spikes and work must be done to alleviate this.

SB 1536 - Emergency Heat Relief for Renters

Removes 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.

Helps landlords establish voluntary cooling centers for tenants through funding and technical assistance to expand access more. places to stay cool outside other public and community resources.

Requires cooling in rentals that are new construction or in specific renovation situations and directs the Oregon Department of Energy to contract with a third party to collect data on the costs and barriers to converting Oregon's affordable housing stock to include cooling.

\$15 million to Oregon Department of Energy for **efficient heat + cooling pump incentives for landlords** which includes support to help address the **electrical, mechanical, and other structural barriers to increased cooling load**.

\$2 million to Oregon Department of Human Services to distribute for local and tribal governments to establish extreme weather shelters such as cooling centers, warming centers, and air shelters.

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At least 96 people died across Oregon during the 2021 heat dome in 28 cities.¹



Most people who passed away had no access to life-saving cooling devices such as air conditioning or heat pumps in their home, and many were renters with low incomes.² The most vulnerable people are seniors, people with disabilities, or people with underlying medical conditions, especially those living in upper-level multifamily units or manufactured homes.

To stay warm in the winter, 10% of Oregonians utilize some kind of bulk fuel, such as wood, propane, or oil, or they have no heating source at all.³ Many of these families are in rural areas not served by natural gas utilities — the same parts of Oregon that are the most energy burdened. Bulk fuels often add to heating costs or require significant physical labor, such as harvesting firewood which is difficult for seniors or people with mobility limitations. Bulk fuels also provide no source of cooling. Alternatively, heat pumps provide both heating and cooling and can increase comfort, and they help save money year-round.

Contact: Oriana Magnera, Verde: oriana.magnera@verdenw.org, 720-530-8401

^{1.} Oregon Health Authority. "Oregon Heat Deaths". https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opb.org%2Fpdf%2FOREGON_heat_deaths_revised_1628632311939.pdf 2 Multnomah County. "Preliminary Review on Excessive Heat Deaths." https://multco-web7-psh-files-usw2.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/preliminary_review-heat_deaths-07-14-21_2.pdf 3 US Census Bureau. "American Community Survey 2019." https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B25040%3A%20HOUSE%20HEATING%20FUEL&g=0400000US41&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B25040