

Submitter: KB Mercer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4058

Subject: HB 4058

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Hudson, Brock Smith, and members of the Committee;

I urge a YES on HB 4058 Relating to Heat Relief, Declaring an Emergency.

Last summer during the heat dome event nearly 100 Oregonians died. Analysis by the Medical Examiner determined that the following factors contributed to people's deaths: most of them were older, lived alone and had no working air conditioning. The type of housing people lived in was also a clear factor in the danger posed by the heat, and more than half of the people who died lived in apartments or multifamily units.

Heat domes are directly related to climate change, and each summer is proving to be hotter than the last. We have a responsibility to our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable.

I enthusiastically support the provisions to fund and install heat pumps through the Healthy Homes program passed in 2021. Heat pump HVAC systems can both heat and cool, and are electric. Expanding the use of electric systems like heat pumps will help us stop the root cause of climate change, which is exacerbated by using fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas.

Thank you;

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