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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 2nd, 2022

HB 4058-2 Support

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair

House Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Pham and Reschke, and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Valderrama, and I am the Representative for House District 47 which covers outer East Portland. I also serve as a member of the House Revenue Committee. As a resident of outer East Portland, I know from experience that we are being disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and extreme weather events.

This disparity isn't just caused by increases or decreases in temperatures, it's caused by decades of racist, classist, and ableist planning and policy making and the divestment of Black and Brown communities leaving us minimal resources. In outer East Portland, there is a disparity of tree canopy. This means there are fewer trees to mitigate the effects of extreme heat on asphalt.

Oregon House District 47 is in Outer East Portland, which sits on the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas Bands of the Chinook and many other tribes who made their home along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Tribes from this ancestral territory are now part of the Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Warm Springs sovereign nations.

Our communities have fewer parks and greenspaces, which means that we experience the most direct - and dangerous - effects of urban heat islands. Temperatures across the city can vary by fifteen degrees due to disparities in green infrastructure. If you are unhoused, commuting by bike, mobility aid, or on foot, or simply wanting to play or find shade outside, you are at a harmful disadvantage.

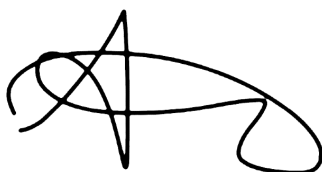
Passing HB 4058 with the -2 amendment is a must this session to address the climate crisis we are experiencing now - whether that is exposure to particulates from wildfire smoke or exposure to extreme heat. We are at a point in our generation in which resiliency planning is a necessity — this is climate change.

Getting air conditioning units and air purifying units into the homes of our most vulnerable community members across the state must be a priority to prevent future climate and weather related deaths from occurring. HB 4058-2 recognizes the inequities and financial burdens associated with the climate crisis and directs the Public Utility Commission to address the increase in energy costs during extreme weather.

Fear of being unable to pay for your utility bill should never be a factor in turning on a potentially life saving air conditioning unit.

I strongly urge the committee to support HB 4058-2 as we work to proactively address the climate crisis and center the wellness of our elders and our disabled, Black and Brown, youth, immigrant and refugee, queer, and low income communities.

Andrea Valderrama

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