

February 2, 2022

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Lacey Beaty
City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson
City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin
City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado
City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper
City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax
City of Forest Grove

Mayor Tammy Stempel
City of Gladstone

Mayor Travis Stovall
City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis
City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway
City of Hillsboro

Mayor Jamie Fender
City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck
City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie
City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba
City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan
City of North Plains

Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams
City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays
City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider
City of Tigard

Mayor Randy Lauer
City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik
City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle
City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Jules Walters
City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald
City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden
City of Wood Village

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for House Bill 4058

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its support for HB 4058, which create programs to increase accessibility to cooling facilities and appliances.

Extreme heat is one of the deadliest consequences of climate change, killing more people each year on average than any other weather-related event. A mountain of scientific research shows that climate change is poised to make heat waves longer, more dangerous, and more frequent. What were once-in-a-millennia heat events are now becoming more routine, making access to air conditioning a lifesaving necessity.

Last summer's unprecedented heat dome shattered temperature records and killed hundreds of people across the Pacific Northwest. Those who lost their lives were some of our most vulnerable residents: they couldn't leave their homes due to health conditions, afford air conditioning, or get transportation to a cooling center. This tragedy was a wakeup call for us as mayors to do everything in our power to better prepare our communities, and particularly our most vulnerable residents, for what's to come.

The Emergency Heat Relief for Communities bill will help ensure that our most vulnerable communities are better prepared for and protected from climate emergencies. The emergency air conditioner and air filtration deployment program created by the bill addresses the immediate need to help our residents access life-saving cooling and air filtration devices during future extreme heat and wildfire events. The bill also establishes a program for the bulk purchase and installation of electric heat pumps for low-income, rural, and other environmental justice communities in Oregon. This is a critical next step in our efforts to better prepare our communities for the increasingly extreme climate of the future.

On behalf of the 1.7 million Oregonians we represent, the Mayors of the MMC urge you to pass this vital measure to protect the health and safety of Oregon families. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium