

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

February 2, 2022

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon state Legislature

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1536

Dear Chair Jama 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 SB 1536, which creates programs to bridge equality gaps between tenant accessibility to cooling facilities and appliances.

Heating and cooling insecurities are chronic issues, exacerbated by climate change, and have disproportionately affected low-income Oregonians and communities of color. Oregon's average annual temperature is projected to increase 5° F by 2050 and more than 6° F in summer. Heat and smoke events are increasing in frequency and are detrimental to public health. MMC cities see the impact of the climate crisis when some of their residents are placed in jeopardy because they lack the ability to regulate the temperature in their homes.

SB 1536 takes a critical step towards better protecting vulnerable Oregonians by removing barriers for renters to install cooling technologies and requiring cool, livable spaces in new or recently renovated rental buildings. The bill will also provide funding to help communities establish extreme weather shelters during high-heat events and incentivize landlords to install efficient electric heat pumps. These measures will all benefit people who have historically been marginalized based on their homeownership status.

For these reasons, the mayors of the MMC urge the Committee to support SB 1536. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Oregon Legislature to improve quality of life for those who need it most. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The 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