



February 3, 2022

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

The League of Oregon Cities supports SB 1536 and HB 4058. Wild and extreme weather events are on the rise. In the last few years, Oregon has seen an intense ice-storm, destructive wildfires, droughts, floods, and high temperatures that should be reserved for the deserts in the southwestern United States. Unfortunately, these extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. The Oregon Legislature has a chance to help mitigate some of these extreme events and protect the health and safety of Oregon families in large and small cities.

SB 1536 would require landlords to allow installation of portable air conditioning units and provide cooled spaces for tenants in certain conditions. The bill would provide funding programs to help landlords pay for efficient heating and cooling equipment. Lastly, additional grants for shelters that provide emergency cooling and heating during extreme weather events would be made available by SB 1536.

HB 4058 would establish a program to distribute emergency air conditioners and air filters to eligible households through the Oregon Health Authority. The bill would also create funding for efficient heat pump incentives prioritized for vulnerable communities, like low-income, rural and other environmental justice communities. HB 4058 would also direct the Oregon Public Utility Commission to study methods to address energy bill spikes during extreme weather events.

Both SB 1536 and HB 4058 will grant vulnerable Oregonians during extreme weather events. We urge your support.

Respectfully,

Jenna Jones
Lobbyist, League of Oregon Cities
jjones@orcities.org