

Submitter: Serena Campas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or SB5518
Topic:

Good afternoon Co-chairs Frederick and Levy, and committee members. My name is Serena Campas, and I am a policy associate for Rewiring America, a national nonprofit focused on electrifying households across the country. 42% of building emissions come from the household- how we heat and cool our homes, heat our water, dry our clothes and cook our food. Installing heat pumps in single and multifamily homes at a rapid pace is key to reducing these emissions and successfully reaching Oregon's climate action goals.

Which means helping homeowners buy and install heat pumps is key. Overall, we fully support the Oregon Department of Energy's work and encourage you to thoughtfully consider their full budget request. However, it is critical for the state to reinvest in the Community and Rental Heat Pump Deployment programs under ODOE. Not only has every dollar of the \$45 million originally allocated to the programs been snapped up, demand outpaced funding. As part of the Building Resilience coalition, funding these two programs is a major priority for us. Heat pumps not only offer homeowners and renters energy efficient, reliable heating (yes, even in cold weather), but cooling as well, which is becoming more critical with each passing year. Without the emissions that come from gas powered appliances, heat pumps are healthier, resilient, and create a more comfortable home environment for Oregonians.

Without rebates, however, a heat pump is out of reach for far too many. We ask that you re-invest the full \$45 million previously allocated in the Community and Rental Heat Pump Deployment programs to prevent the phase out of these programs and give thousands more Oregonians the opportunity to lower their bills, improve their homes, and better their day to day lives. Thank you for your time.