



March 17, 2025

Re. COIN Testimony in Support of SB 54

Dear Chair Pham and Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to urge you to vote yes on SB 54. COIN is made up of dozens of Indivisible groups from across Oregon. COIN has its own Climate Energy and Environment Team that, in part, works to support policies and programs that address and mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. Indoor cooling has been unnecessary and thus unavailable in the past in apartment complexes and other rental homes. But now with unprecedented extreme summer heat waves, folks who rent find their homes uninhabitable and even dangerous during these times. Many do not have the resources to provide their own cooling. Nor should they have to provide cooling in extreme heat to make their rented homes habitable anymore than they should have to arrange to provide water, electricity, or heat.

The extreme heat waves are likely to continue and even get worse. There is also an ongoing housing crisis that leaves most folks who rent with very few affordable options. It should be incumbent on landlords to provide at least a habitable place where the folks they are collecting rent from can have relief from the extreme heat and the danger it can present to their health and lives.

SB 54 makes indoor cooling an "essential service" for folks who rent, just like heating, water, and electricity. Landlords will have *11 years* to phase in indoor cooling for each apartment unit they currently own. Landlords with 10 or more units need only provide now a shared cooling space. All landlords must provide indoor cooling in each unit permitted after January 1, 2026. Grants will be available until 2036 to assist with compliance.

This bill could not be more reasonable for all concerned and recognizes a harsh reality that we all need to work together to ameliorate the effects of the climate crisis and that includes those who own and operate apartment complexes and other rental units they expect people to pay rent for and live in.

COIN urges the Committee to vote yes on SB 54.

Laura Allen on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN

