

Submitter: Elizabeth Willis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am writing to urge you to prioritize protecting and investing in Oregon's climate progress and to work to guard against federal chaos. Please support continued funding for existing, popular state programs to cut climate pollution, drive clean economic growth and promote community resilience.

It is obvious that our country is facing great chaos and uncertainty at the federal level, including attacks on clean air and water, affordable energy, and the integrity of our public lands. Investing in climate resiliency means investing in community resiliency. We all deserve to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and heat and cool our homes without facing outrageous utility bills. That's why I'm calling on you to support SB 5518 (Heat Pumps) \$30 million for Rental Home Heat Pump and \$15 million for Community Heat Pump Deployment Programs. For many families, a heat pump can be a lifeline. Heat pumps mean lower utility bills when costs are skyrocketing, safety from deadly heat, and being able to afford and stay in housing. These programs help keep people safe, housed, and secure in their communities.

Also, I ask that you support Community Resilience Hubs (ODHS) - \$10 million for community resilience hubs and networks across the state to coordinate and provide access to resources and services for vulnerable populations during disasters. With our ever increasing wildfires in Oregon, and the looming concern of a massive subduction earthquake off our coast, we must protect our communities proactively.

And in any budget, please prioritize funding to support our state energy and natural resource agencies in advancing Oregon's climate goals, ensuring healthy, resilient communities, and supporting clean energy job growth across Oregon. Also, I urge you to maintain adequate funding to ensure agencies are adequately resourced to effectively implement existing climate programs and policies, including our Climate Protection Program and 100% Clean Energy law.

Please prioritize a state budget that protects our climate and our communities rather than adding to the chaos.

Thank you!