

Testimony in Support of a Community Heat Pump Program Deployment program

Good day, Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee,

My name is Peter Tofalvi, and I write today to urge you to support the reinvestment in two state-funded heat pump programs for low-income and disadvantaged families in Oregon at ODOE.

Eleven years ago, I was a home performance contractor, living in an apartment heated by noisy, inefficient cadet heaters. I was struggling with high utility bills and poor indoor comfort. So, I wanted to install a heat pump myself, hoping to reduce my heating costs and create a quieter, more comfortable space where I could actually focus and be productive. Unfortunately, because of the apartment regulations, I could not install the system. That experience left a mark.

Today, I live and work in my own home where I installed two heat pump systems. These systems enable me to stay healthy and productive in extreme weather.

As part of my work at Earth Advantage, I provide quality control for heat pumps installed through the Portland Clean Energy Fund, serving disadvantaged families across our city. Every day, I see how transformative these systems are—not just for reducing utility costs, but for improving lives. Families are not only staying warmer in the winter, but they're staying safe and cool during increasingly extreme summer heat. This is especially critical as we face more frequent and intense heat waves, which disproportionately impact those without access to cooling. Heat pumps reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses like heat stroke and cardiovascular stress—conditions that can be deadly, especially for the elderly and vulnerable.

More importantly, these families are grateful. They're grateful to the government that doesn't just talk about equity—but takes action. Programs like this are a real, tangible step toward justice, affordability, and climate resilience.

Please vote to support a state-funded heat pump program in Oregon. It's a smart investment that pays off in lower bills, better health, and more dignity for the people who need it most.

Thank you,
Peter Tofalvi
Residential Energy Consultant
Earth Advantage