

Verbal Testimony prepared for the Joint Committee on Ways and Means in support of continued funding for the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program.

Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the Committee:

I'm here to speak to you today about the vital work of the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program and urge you to re-invest 15 million dollars in the program so that it can continue its life-saving work supporting vulnerable Oregonians.

My name is Molly Hatfield, and I'm a Senior Manager at Earth Advantage. My organization administers the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program – CHPDP for short – in the Northwestern region of Oregon, which includes 13 counties in the Metro, Mid-Valley, South Valley/Mid Coast, and North Coast districts of Oregon.

Heat pumps are crucial in our efforts to protect the Oregonians most at risk from extreme weather. They are a cost-effective, energy efficient way to heat and cool a household. They can lower energy bills and provide life-saving relief from the heat waves and deep freezes that are now annual occurrences in Oregon. The State has already recognized heat pumps as an essential technology for climate resilience and carbon reduction goals, and in 2023 adopted the goal of installing 500,000 heat pumps in the homes of Oregonians by 2030.

CHPDP has been a powerful and effective tool toward meeting this goal. To date Earth Advantage has overseen 303 installations in the Northwestern region. 302 of these installations have taken place in disadvantaged communities. The vast majority of these homeowners – nearly 90% – are experiencing lower incomes, and over 80% had no cooling prior to their heat pump installation through CHPDP. Nearly a quarter (22%) of recipients had no heating prior to CHPDP intervention. Based on the stories we've heard from our installers and from heat pump recipients, there is absolutely no question that these heat pumps have changed – and saved – lives. And with federal assistance more uncertain than ever, it's never been more important for the state to step up and fill that gap

That is why I'm here today. Because without your intervention, funding for CHPDP will be depleted before the end of this year. It is already spent in many areas, and we have truly only scratched the surface of the demand for this program. My program has already had to deny projects due to lack of funds. This is heartbreaking for so many reasons, one of them being that it undercuts the momentum that we've worked so hard to build for this program. If this committee does not add more funds, we'll be forced to halt our program just as it's ramping to peak reach and efficiency.



Committee members, right now we have homeowners that are waiting, installers that are ready, and systems that are primed to continue these life-saving heat pump installations. All that's lacking is the funds. I urge you to re-invest in CHPDP: it is a cost-effective, well-run, proven way to get heat pump technology to the communities that need it most. Please

Thank you, co-chairs and committee members, for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly".

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