EMERGENCY HEAT RELIEF FOR OREGONIANS BILLS

In the Summer of 2021, Oregon experienced a record heat wave, the second worst natural disaster in our state's recorded history. Many people were made more vulnerable because they did not have access to life-saving, cooling technologies like air conditioning and heat pumps. To help protect more families we must remove barriers to installing these appliances and incentivize the most efficient and effective devices. We must act immediately to ensure:

LC 144 - Emergency Heat Relief for Communities

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\$5 million to Oregon Health Authority for **emergency air conditioner and air filtration deployment** to complement existing wildfire work.



\$10 million to Oregon Department of Energy for efficient heat pump incentives prioritized to low-income and environmental justice communities, especially rural communities who utilize bulk fuels like wood, oil, and propane or the electric resistance heating that is found in many manufactured homes.



events.

Direction to the Oregon Public Utility Commission to explore strategies to address energy bill spikes due to extreme weather



LC 26 - Emergency Heat Relief for Renters



Photo Credit: City of Portland

Removes barriers for renters to install portable air conditioners, while maintaining building safety and providing alternative compliance for landlords with rental units that can't support air conditioners.

Establishes a right to reasonable accommodation to install cooling devices for medically vulnerable people such as seniors and people with disabilities.

Requires cooling in rentals that are new construction or recently renovated and directs Oregon Housing and Community Service to collect data on the costs and barriers to converting Oregon's rental housing stock to include cooling.

\$10 million to Oregon Department of Energy for **efficient heat pump incentives for landlords** supplemented by a **\$5 million revolving loan fund** to help address the **electrical, mechanical, and other structural barriers to increased cooling load**.

\$2 million to Oregon Department of Human Services to distribute for communities to **establish extreme weather shelters** such as **cooling centers, warming centers,** and **air shelters**.







At least 96 people died across Oregon during the 2021 heat dome in 28 cities.¹



Most people who passed away had no access to life-saving cooling devices such as air conditioning or heat pumps in their home, and many were renters with low incomes.² The most vulnerable people are seniors, people with disabilities, or people with underlying medical conditions, especially those living in upper-level multifamily units or manufactured homes.

To stay warm in the winter, 10% of Oregonians utilize some kind of bulk fuel, such as wood, propane, or oil, or they have no heating source at all.³ Many of these families are in rural areas not served by natural gas utilities — the same parts of Oregon that are the most energy burdened. Bulk fuels often add to heating costs or require significant physical labor, such as harvesting firewood which is difficult for seniors or people with mobility limitations. Bulk fuels also provide no source of cooling. Alternatively, heat pumps provide both heating and cooling and can increase comfort, and they help save money year-round.

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