



April 14, 2017

Senator Rod Monroe
Representative Barbara Smith-Warner
Co-chairs, Ways and Means Education Subcommittee
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Rod Monroe, Representative Barbara Smith-Warner and Way and Means Education Subcommittee Members,

Drive Oregon is a non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing the electric vehicle industry in the state. We have over 100 industry members from across the supply chain and at all stages of development. By providing programming and resources to these electric mobility firms, we are supporting job growth, investment, and the deployment of clean transportation technology in the state.

Several of our early stage member companies have partnered with Oregon Tech and Oregon Renewable Energy Center (OREC)-affiliated faculty over the past four years. For example, Arcimoto, based in Eugene, and KersTech Vehicle Systems, based in Portland, both have improved their electric drive train technologies by leveraging the expertise of Oregon Tech's dedicated faculty. This, in turn, has helped them both move closer to commercialization. We also have provided a research grant to a faculty member connected to OREC, the late Professor Jim Long, which supported his innovative work on motor control algorithms.

We look forward to more projects like this in the future. We also see a unique opportunity for our firms' technologies to connect with other research agendas at Oregon Tech and OREC, as electric vehicles' batteries have the potential to serve as flexible energy storage for the grid and thus help integrate renewable energy.

For the long-term success of the electric vehicle industry in Oregon, it is critical that we build a skilled workforce and support growth of start-up companies. Drive Oregon believes Oregon Tech and OREC play an important role in this, and so we are writing to express our support for them as they seek state support through a Policy Option Package to fulfill their mandate in ORS 352.221 to "engage in renewable energy system engineering and applied research."

Drive Oregon unequivocally supports funding for OREC to make more clean tech expertise and talent available to Oregon companies.

Thank you for your consideration of Oregon Tech's Policy Option Package request.

Sincerely,

Jeff Allen
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