



June 7, 2017

Co-Chair McKeown and Co-Chair Beyer  
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for Electric Vehicle Funding**

Dear Co-Chair McKeown, Co-Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Representative Helm and Senator Dembrow, as well as members of the Environmental Caucus, respectfully request that the Joint Transportation Preservation and Modernization Committee include funding for an electric vehicle (EV) point-of-purchase rebate in the 2017 transportation package. A point-of-purchase rebate for EVs will foster a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Oregon's transportation system, increase the affordability of EVs for working families, and help to make Oregon a leader in the burgeoning electric vehicle industry.

We are substantially behind in our efforts to meet Oregon's 2020 GHG emissions reduction goal, and transportation is responsible for one third of our state's emissions. Dramatically increasing the number of EVs sold in Oregon is one of the most impactful ways to reduce transportation emissions and move toward our GHG emissions reduction goals. Additionally, EVs are substantially cheaper to operate and have been shown to save families an average of \$300 per month in operating costs when compared to conventional gas vehicles.

Despite these significant benefits, the higher up-front purchase cost of EVs can create a barrier to entry, particularly for low- and middle-income Oregonians who would benefit most from the monthly savings that EVs provide. A short-term investment in point-of-purchase rebates would incentivize EV sales and position our state to reap the long-term benefits of electrified transportation. Offering a rebate at the point of purchase has proven to be the best way to influence consumer behavior and incentivize consumers to purchase EVs. Studies show that rebates of between \$1,500-\$2,500 have accelerated the adoption of EVs in states like California, Massachusetts, Georgia, and Connecticut.

We request that the 2017 transportation package includes funding for EVs among its measures to reduce transportation emissions. A minimum investment of \$3.6 million would enable us launch a pilot program for an EV point-of-purchase rebate that would help Oregon to become a leader in the EV industry while also putting money back in the pockets of working families. In conjunction with the package's funding for public transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and other transportation programs, an EV rebate program will allow us to take a significant step toward our 2020 emissions goals. EVs are a significant part of Oregon's transportation future, and we urge you to seize this opportunity to move our state toward that future.

Respectfully,

Representative Ken Helm  
House District 34

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senate District 23