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February 5, 2025

AGC Testimony Re: HB 2961

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee:

Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter represents a broad cross-section of the commercial construction industry, including open shop and union, rural and metro, highway and building contractors. Most of our members are small, homegrown businesses, doing business throughout Oregon.

We appreciate the intention of this bill, in looking to make electric vehicles more workable for all Oregonians. However, we have concerns with this bill as written and the unintended consequences that it will have on construction throughout the state.

Our main concern with this legislation is the increased cost in construction. The increased cost to projects comes partially from increasing the electrical load on service gear and transformers. These practical implications will increase the cost of the projects covered by this legislation, which include all private commercial construction with parking lots or structures, as well as multifamily housing. These cost increases will further challenge the overall efforts to make housing affordable in our state.

It should also be noted that the percentage changes required under this bill are significant and broaden regulations that are relatively new for the industry.

We also have concerns about some of the technical implications of this bill. We would request that this bill be discussed further with a broader group of stakeholders, including representatives from the construction industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Adams
Director and Counsel – Policy and Public Affairs
Associated General Contractors, Oregon-Columbia Chapter

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