

Submitter: MINDY SCHMIDT
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2961

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2961, a critical piece of legislation that will significantly advance electric vehicle (EV) adoption among Oregon's renter population.

As an EV owner for over 10 years, my Nissan Leaf has provided my family with reliable, affordable transportation. The financial benefits have been substantial—affordable vehicle payments, a payoff period of just five years, and minimal maintenance costs limited to new tires every few years and occasional windshield wiper fluid. The most significant savings, however, have come from the absence of fuel costs. This has not only supported our family budget but aligns with my deep hopes for a sustainable future in the face of climate change.

Now, as a new renter later in life due to divorce, I have encountered firsthand the challenges of EV ownership without easy access to charging infrastructure at apartment complexes. With 40% of Oregonians being renters, this is a widespread issue that HB2961 addresses directly. By increasing the required EV charging capacity or mandating the installation of at least one actual EV charging station in new multifamily housing with five or more units, this bill will make EV ownership a viable option for many more Oregonians.

The visibility of these charging stations is key. While current regulations may require underground conduits, the presence of actual charging stations will normalize EV use and encourage adoption among renters who may not have previously considered it.

I urge you to support HB2961 to help create a future where EV ownership is accessible, practical, and beneficial for all Oregonians, regardless of their housing situation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mindy Schmidt