

PGE Comments on House Bill 2180 - Make New Buildings EV-Ready

PGE supports House Bill 2180 to reduce the cost and complexity of installing EV charging. Anticipating and preparing new buildings for electric transportation will help reduce future retrofit construction and electrical work required to install electric vehicle charging stations.

The transportation sector is electrifying now. Global sales of electric cars accelerated in 2020, up more than a third despite overall car sales down at least 15 percent year over year during the coronavirus pandemic. Global automakers have committed hundreds of billions of dollars to developing and producing dozens of new electric vehicles in the coming years as battery technologies improve and their costs fall. General Motors aims to stop selling new gasoline-powered cars and light trucks by 2035 in favor of battery electric vehicles. As of October 2020, there are more than 31,400 light duty electric vehicles registered in Oregon, a number that has continued to grow through the pandemic.

Most electric vehicle charging happens at home or at a workplace. HB 2180 addresses both by including new private commercial buildings, new mixed-use buildings, and new multifamily buildings with 5 or more units.

Preparing for electric vehicles saves money. Buildings under construction today last decades, and while the charger is the most visible equipment, installing electric vehicle charging can include building retrofits, construction and trenching, on-site electrical upgrades such as panels, cables and wiring, and other upgrades. Preparing new buildings for transportation electrification by including panel capacity and conduit to support future installation of EV chargers can help prevent potentially expensive additional upgrades down the road. HB 2180 does not require charging stations to be installed at the time of construction.

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