

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the Committee,

We are members of the Metro Climate Action Team, working to improve the chances of a livable climate for our children and grandchildren. We support legislative actions that accelerate the shift to a renewable energy future, that reduce greenhouse gas pollution, and that improve the health of our population. Because of these considerations, we are deeply **opposed** to HB 2659 that would rescind Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rules adopted by LCDC in July 2022.

Many of our cities were built to optimize travel by car. Reducing driving of cars (even of EVs) improves air pollution and makes our people healthier. We need to promote active transportation (walking, biking and rolling) and public transit. Since transportation contributes the biggest amount of climate-destroying emissions in Oregon, modernizing our ways of travel is crucial. Driving in traffic requires long periods of sitting, and sitting too long contributes to early death, cancer, obesity, heart disease, vascular disease, and back pain.

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/sitting-health-risks> By reducing commutes and reducing incentives to driving, we can both prevent the worst climate disasters and help people be healthier by being more active.

Thirty percent of Oregonians do not drive. Reasons for not driving include financial inability to own a car, disability such as epilepsy or poor vision, or by choice. We should be creating communities that do not discriminate against this portion of the population and that provide easily-accessible opportunities for employment and recreation.

The CFEC rules were adopted with multiple opportunities for input from diverse people from across our state. They are limited to our eight largest urban areas. Reversing these rules now would be a huge step backwards at a time when it is increasingly clear that we need rapid and effective action to keep our climate from spiraling into a terrible future. We know how devastating huge wildfires, floods, droughts and species loss have been - however, what we have seen is just the tip of the iceberg. To prevent the worst of that occurring, we need more forward-looking actions like the CFEC rules.

We urge you to vote NO on HB 2659.

Thank you for your service to our great state!

Sincerely,

Transportation Committee
Metro Climate Action Team

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