

Testimony to House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment Support HB 2961 – EV-ready Expansion bill

February 4, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee:

My name is Dr. Pat DeAquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), which is a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

I am speaking today in support of HB 2961, which will require the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall adopt amendments to the state building code to require newly constructed buildings to have sufficient electrical vehicles charging capacity, and at least one actual EV charging station in the garages or parking areas of newly constructed commercial buildings, multifamily buildings with five or more units and mixed-use buildings consisting of privately owned commercial space and five or more residential dwelling units.

Given that 40% of Oregonians are currently renters, this bill will open up the possibility of owning an EV to a large swath of our population who currently cannot access home-charging. The visibility of the charging station, as opposed to merely having an underground conduit as currently required, is key to driving EV adoption among our renter population.

I urge you to support HB 2961 and support our state's transition to a clean energy future with economic growth for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat DeAquil
Gresham, OR

