

My name is Paulette Bierzychudek and I am an Oregon resident from House district 41. I write to offer my strong support for HB 2961.

The climate crisis is threatening the health and welfare of all Oregonians and of the natural world on which we depend. We must use every means at our disposal to combat and reverse climate change by drastically reducing our carbon dioxide emissions. The U. S. Energy Information Administration estimates that 31% of the country's carbon dioxide emissions came from gasoline and diesel fuel consumption in 2023. Reducing the use of these fuels in the transportation sector is thus one of the most important tools we have for reducing the incidence of fires, high heat episodes, and other climate-related catastrophes.

HB 2961 would incentivize the use of electric vehicles among the 40% of Oregonians who rent, rather than owning their own homes, and who currently have no access to home-charging facilities. I own a plug-in hybrid myself, and would never have made such a purchase if I lacked the access to charging that my home ownership affords me. Provision of charging facilities is a small and relatively inexpensive way to reduce our emissions, since car owners themselves would bear the main cost of electrification through their vehicle purchase. HB 2961 removes an important roadblock to such purchases.

For these reasons I urge your support of HB 2961. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Paulette Bierzychudek
Portland, OR