

May 6, 2019

Testimony in support of SB 1044 - 2: A comprehensive, statewide zero-emission vehicle framework to support Oregon's climate agenda

Submitted to the Joint Transportation Committee

By: Catherine Macdonald, Oregon Climate Policy Director, The Nature Conservancy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **testimony in support of SB 1044-2**. Reducing emissions, increasing carbon sequestration and improving ecosystem and community resilience are top priorities for The Nature Conservancy. The 2018 [Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) and [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 1.5 degrees Celsius Report](#) are urgent wake-up calls on the need for ambitious climate action. **Limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require "rapid and far-reaching action."**

The Oregon Department of Transportation's [2018 report](#) on progress against the Statewide Transportation Strategy concluded that **legislative actions will be needed "to get back on track with the STS vision."** This conclusion was reinforced in the [2018 Oregon Global Warming Report](#) to the Legislature.

With transportation making up nearly 40 percent of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and on the rise, SB 1044-2 is an important companion bill to HB 2020. Passing both will be important steps forward to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change. The framework and metrics proposed in SB 1044-2 and funding generated by HB 2020 will help to ensure that we have the policies and funding needed to meet our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The regular reports to the Legislature assessing adoption of zero and low emission vehicles required by SB 1044-2 will support the kind of continuous improvement in emission reduction policies and programs experts recommend. Provisions in the bill giving state agencies and school districts additional flexibility to purchase low and zero emission vehicles help to develop the market for these vehicles.

The Nature Conservancy supports SB 1044-2 and urges you to vote for its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a science-based and non-partisan conservation organization. Our mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. TNC was incorporated in Oregon in 1961. Today we have over 70,000 supporters statewide with members in every county. Our staff, based in communities across the state, work collaboratively with tribes, government agencies, elected officials, private landowners, businesses, and natural resource stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to the major challenges facing people and nature.