

February 4, 2020

Chair Representative Karin Power
House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4066

Chair Power and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my support for HB 4066. I would have joined you in person today, driving down from Milwaukie in our all-electric Hyundai Kona, were it not for time constraints.

Milwaukie is leading smaller cities in our region in finding ways to combat climate change. Recently we made the news with our unanimous adoption of a resolution declaring a climate emergency, pushing the already ambitious carbon reduction goals of our Climate Action Plan ahead five years. And as part of the greater Portland metropolitan area, we are well aware that every year, we have more and more personal vehicles clogging our roads. While this represents a critical need for greater investment in mass transit options, there's no two ways around the fact that many residents will continue to rely on cars to get around.

I and the rest of City Council know that doing our part to address the climate crisis matters to Milwaukie's residents. Transportation represents more than a quarter of Milwaukie's carbon footprint, and moving to clean fuel technologies such as electric vehicles is a big part of Milwaukie's carbon reduction plan.

However, without EV support infrastructure in place, people are reluctant to seriously consider an electric vehicle. Even as tax credits have lowered the cost of new EVs to be competitive, "range anxiety" remains a barrier for many. And with good reason: at Thanksgiving, we made the trip from our home to family in Chico, two miles north of Sacramento, in our new EV. On the way down, we didn't plan our route in advance, and encountered several charging stations that were listed on the map but were out of service when we arrived, or did not charge at the rate they promised. Our trip took hours longer than usual, and was needlessly stressful.

In Milwaukie, we have been fortunate to have a strong partner in PGE. They know we're serious about achieving a clean energy future for our residents as fast as we possibly can, as we were proud to be home to their first fast-charging Electric Avenue station. It's prominently located right on a major road, and you can often see cars charging up for a bit as their owners run errands or enjoy our local small businesses downtown.

Knowing this service was available to us was one of the reasons we felt comfortable making the leap to an EV. And we need more of this, in Milwaukie and throughout the state. We need reliable charging stations, peppered throughout our communities. PGE is working on building its expertise in this field, and the PUC is well-positioned to further shape their work and that of and other utilities in closing the many gaps in Oregon's EV infrastructure. HB 4066 will provide the PUC with the tools they need to be efficient and effective in this work. Let's make it happen.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hyzy

12210 SE 19th Ave
Milwaukie OR 97222