



February 11, 2020

Re: HB 4068

Chair Power and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions and Oregon Environmental Council write in support of HB 4068. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization advancing innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon is reducing greenhouse gas emissions in every category except transportation, and transportation emissions, unlike the rest, are rising. Oregon is already moving toward transportation electrification as an important climate emissions reduction tool. SB 1044 (2019) created ambitious legislative targets for accelerating electric vehicles registered and on the roads in Oregon. The transportation sector continues to need significant investment in EV infrastructure to i) achieve the ambitious vehicle targets set out in SB 1044, ii) to stop the year-over-year increase in transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions over the past several years, and iii) to achieve the aggressive greenhouse gas and air toxics reductions we so urgently need.

One of the barriers to widespread adoption of electric vehicles is the limited availability of charging infrastructure. While people living in houses with garages can fairly easily install charging for electric vehicles, it is much more difficult for people without that access. New buildings being built now will last for half a century or more. Those new buildings will still be standing when Oregon is committed to have dramatically increased the proportion of vehicles on the road that are electric. We know that building owners will need to retrofit their buildings with electric charging in the future. We need to take action with requirements now, because we are building the future's built environment now. HB 4068 will require that new buildings include basic elements that will set up for more convenient retrofitting in the future. Including these elements when the building is built is much cheaper than trying to retrofit them in the future.

We must move now to set our state up for successful transportation electrification as we go forward. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Meredith Connolly
Oregon Director
Climate Solutions

Sara Wright
Program Director, Transportation
Oregon Environmental Council