



February 3, 2021

Chair Marsh
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2180

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Our organizations write in support of HB 2180, which comes back to you after consideration last session. 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.

Oregon has made significant strides combatting climate change, but our transportation emissions continue to rise. 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 reductions and transition off fossil-based fuels 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. This bill provides better access to charging for new commercial and multi-dwelling buildings. 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 2180 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 also strongly support the provision allowing local governments to develop their own charging standards that may apply to more than 20% of the parking spaces in a new development.

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,

Handwritten signature of Meredith Connolly in cursive script.

Meredith Connolly
Oregon Director
Climate Solutions

Handwritten signature of Sara Wright in cursive script.

Sara Wright
Program Director, Transportation
Oregon Environmental Council