

To the members of the Transportation Committee:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB 2165-A, which will expand electrification infrastructure in Oregon, with an emphasis on support for "under-served communities." This bill serves so many important goals. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is (as we all know) the most urgent issue of our times, as the window of opportunity to prevent treacherous feedback loops from accelerating the heating of our planet is closing rapidly. Our nation has subsidized fossil fuel infrastructure for decades, which was the wrong choice, so now it is time to shift those subsidies to clean energy infrastructure.

We also need to seek opportunities to repair systemic injustices to support all members of the Oregon community. Our current system forces low-income Oregonians with challenging work schedules to purchase the most affordable vehicles, which are also often the most polluting. This bill widens the opportunity for all Oregonians to make a cleaner choice.

My family has a personal stake in this bill. Currently three driving adults share one aging Toyota Corolla, and we would love for our next car to be all electric. But because we use this one car for all our travel, including long distance trips around the state, we are nervous about being able to find charging stations away from home. Having a more robust infrastructure of charging stations would give us the confidence to replace our gas-burning car with an electric one. Let's hope the Corolla can hang on until then!

Thank you for your work to provide a livable future for all Oregonians.

Roberta Richards
Southeast Portland