



April 29, 2021

Chair Beyer
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2180-A

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Our organizations write in support of HB 2180-A, 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. Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization working to protect our water, air and land with healthy solutions that work for today and future generations.

Oregon has set ambitious climate targets, but our transportation emissions continue to rise. SB 1044 (2019) created legislative targets for accelerating electric vehicles registered and on the roads in Oregon. However, 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, particularly for people who do not live in detached homes with garages. This bill provides better access to charging for new commercial and multi-family buildings.

HB 2180-A will require that new buildings include basic elements that will set up for more convenient and efficient retrofitting in the future. Our new buildings must be ready for when Oregon is committed to dramatically increase the proportion of vehicles on the road that are electric. Building owners will need to retrofit their buildings with electric charging in the future, and by taking action now that retrofitting will be more affordable and convenient in the future. We are building our future's built environment now.

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 support HB 2180A as part of the necessary preparations for a successful transition to an electric transportation future. 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