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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2700

My family and I recently moved to a little chunk of land in the Ladd Hill area. We are making it our mission to manage our land with a focus on long-term sustainability, especially providing wildlife habitat. I love that my kid gets to grow up a little wild, and I want to do everything in my power to make sure his kids and their kids get the same opportunity. We need a tractor to do the work, and I was excited to discover that there are finally starting to be electric tractors on the market.

Not surprisingly, this technology is still more expensive upfront than traditional diesel/ICE tractors. For a small family / hobby farm, that price difference is significant. While some states (notably California) are taking the lead on offering tax incentives for being an early adopter of EV technology in agriculture, Oregon appears to not have taken that vital step.

Not everyone is interested in a zero-emissions farm vehicle, and rightly so: the technology is new, and what's on the market now just isn't a good fit for many farmers. But the way new technology becomes trusted technology is through use, and by offering the right nudges we can move forward faster. Agriculture and transportation are two areas with significant local, national, and global potential for changing the overall trajectory of our impact on the climate; let's make it easier for people to choose more sustainable options.

Background information on agriculture and emissions, in brief:

-In the US, agriculture and transportation account for 11% and 27% of our total greenhouse gas emissions respectively. (EPA, 2020

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>)

-“Fossil fuels linked to U.S. food consumption produced 13.6 percent of all fossil fuel CO2 emissions economywide in 2007.” (USDA, ERR-224 January 2017

??<https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=82193>)

-Changing agricultural practices has the potential to reduce total emissions and also to sequester carbon in plants and soil, going beyond simply doing less harm to actively remove atmospheric carbon. (USDA,

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/natural-resources-environment/climate-change/> and Project Drawdown, <https://drawdown.org/solutions/conservation-agriculture>)