



February 23, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3224 – Support

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis, Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. We write today in support of [HB 3224](#), which seeks to require the Department of Transportation, the State Department of Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality to collaborate with the City of Salem and mass transit agencies to study feasibility of developing a rail streetcar system in the City of Salem.

In 2020, Climate Solutions published a report called Transforming our Transportation, which examined our options for cutting carbon from our transportation system in Washington and Oregon. This report found that to meet our climate goals, we must both electrify our transportation system without delay AND pair it with reducing vehicle miles traveled to achieve the biggest social and climate benefits such as health and air quality improvements, especially for low-income and BIPOC communities who are disproportionately burdened by air pollution; as well as reduce transportation cost burden and address the climate crisis. Specifically, the research showed that we cannot succeed without electrifying about 97% of all vehicles and vehicle types by 2050, as well as, about a 27% on average vehicle miles traveled reduction. In short, we have a lot of work to do.

While the goals of the report indicate we have a lot of work to do, we can take steps now to increase transit options and electrify our transit system. By working to expand transportation options for Oregonians, we are providing more access to essential services and economic opportunities, as well as reducing transportation cost burdens and providing access for Oregonians who cannot or are unable to drive. HB 3224 is a step in the right direction to ensure we are exploring the benefits that streetcars can provide to Oregonians, to the City of Salem, and to our climate. ***Please join us in supporting HB 3224.***

Sincerely,

Miranda Miller
Government Affairs Director, Strategies 360
On behalf of Climate Solutions