

Submitter: Richard Larson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB945

This bill is a flawed attempt to further extreme MAGA priorities supporting the use of fossil fuels at the expense of the environment and in order to enrich big oil companies.

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. The State of Oregon should be encouraging the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) wherever feasible in order to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The Oregon DMV already discriminates against EVs by charging a hefty tax at purchase and additional fees at license renewal;
2. The proposed rate equivalent of 30 MPG for imposing the fee is far too low. In fact, a more accurate MPG equivalent would be 100 MPG;
3. It is unfair and inequitable to impose triple fees on EVs. These being the tax at original purchase, the additional fee at license renewal and then an exaggerated amount claimed to be a gas tax equivalent.
4. It is well documented that heavy vehicles and trucks cause exponentially greater damage and wear to our roadways than light duty passenger cars and also that these vehicles do not currently pay their fair share of the cost of maintenance through weight/mile taxes. It would be more appropriate to increase these fees.
5. As a source of additional funding for ODOT, additional fees should be imposed on large pickup trucks with high power diesel engines which create significant air pollution and wear on the highways.

This bill should be disposed of in committee and not considered further.