

Submitter: Lisa Cohn

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: HB5018

Dear Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

I've been driving electric vehicles for seven years. I'm proud of the fact that my cars have emitted no carbon or other pollutants, run very quietly and are much cheaper to fuel than gas-powered cars. They're fun to drive and easy to charge from home and when I'm out and about, especially in Portland, which is very EV friendly.

With about one-third of carbon emissions coming from the transportation sector, we need to transition to clean cars as soon as possible.

An unfortunate omission in the Agency's budget is sufficient funding for Oregon's Clean Vehicle Rebate Program. The program has assisted over 25,000 Oregonians in the transition to clean electric vehicles since its inception in 2018 and has helped close a substantial affordability gap in EV adoption. Unfortunately this program is about to enter a period of suspension due to the lack of funding. Without action by the Legislature, Oregon's EV rebate will end on May 1.

I urge you to support a one time funding allocation to help the program come out of suspension and maintain current service levels through the 2023-2025 biennium. House Bill 2613, would fully fund the rebate in the next biennium and will greatly help the State in achieving our greenhouse gas emissions reduction and air quality goals. At a time when it is the state policy to convert our fleet to emission free vehicles - it seems absolutely incongruous to make them less affordable for Oregonians."

Please do everything you can to support the rollout of EVs in Oregon.

Thanks,

Lisa Cohn