

4-5-2023

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Judy Strand, CEO, Metropolitan Family Service (MFS), Portland, OR

RE: Support HB2613 Funding for Zero-Emissions Vehicle Incentives

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share Metropolitan Family Service's (MFS) support for HB2613. Metropolitan Family Service is a long standing nonprofit human service organization in the Portland, Oregon metro region. MFS helps people move past the limitations of poverty, inequity and social isolation so that people can move their lives forward. Programs drive youth success, build household income stability and growth, and support health and wellness across the lifespan. Last year, MFS reached over 18,000 community members who reside in the Portland metropolitan area. The median income for families served by MFS is \$31,800. Seventy percent of our program participants identify as BIPOC, and 35% of our program participants speak a language other than English at home.

For over 15 years, MFS' Ways to Work (WTW) program has helped low income, credit challenged working families obtain affordable auto loans and safe, reliable vehicles while reducing the purchase price and maintenance costs associated with owning a vehicle

Since 2016, MFS has explored options for helping low income consumers enter the EV market, however the cost of entry and or the availability of used EV vehicles has prohibited MFS from helping WTW service users purchase EVs. A lot has changed since 2016. In 2020, approximately 1.6 million EVs were sold nationwide and more used EVs will be entering the marketplace. This shift, along with strong rebates and incentives, have the potential to make EVs more accessible and affordable to low income individuals. Despite this growing opportunity, significant barriers remain. In a recent Consumer Reports study, purchase price was one of the most significant barriers to EV purchase, yet low income households would save between \$800-\$1300 dollars for every 15,000 miles driven and save on average \$4600 in maintenance over the vehicle's lifetime. Reducing the initial purchase price through incentives and rebates is a critical need.

The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program is a key resource helping low-and moderate-income car buyers purchase an electric vehicle, allowing qualified purchasers of used EVs to get a \$5000 rebate on a used EV. In 2022, applications for the Charge Ahead Rebate (specifically for low-and moderate-income households), exceeded the 20% legislated funding minimum for the first time and are projected to exceed the minimum in 2023 as well. There is finally momentum for low-and moderate-income car buyers to consider and choose EVs over gas powered vehicles and Oregon should provide the funds to continue this important, climate friendly trend. Without the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate program our Ways to Work clients cannot find vehicles they can afford to buy despite the fact that 61% of our clients are interested in buying an EV.



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Moving Lives Forward.

www.metfamily.org

We urge you to support HB2613 to continue Oregon's transition to clean transportation for people of every income level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Judy Strand'.

Judy Strand, CEO
Metropolitan Family Service (MFS)