



April 6, 2023

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

Re: HB 2613 - Support

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

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. We write in strong support of HB 2613 to allocate \$30 million in one time funding to the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP).

The transportation sector makes up 40 percent of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, of which 62 percent is from passenger cars and trucks. Every new car purchased that runs on fossil fuels is locking in more decades of pollution. In this decisive decade for scaling up climate action, ensuring that all types of vehicles transition to zero emission and reducing our overall car trips by shifting to alternative modes of transportation are both necessary to meet our State's climate goals, reduce air pollution, and make our transportation system safer, affordable, and more accessible.

While [Oregon was tied at second place](#) for leading the nation in electric car sales with over [60,000](#) registered EVs in the state, the demand for the program is outpacing the available funds to ensure that all Oregonians who want to make the switch to an EV can do so. OCVRP is oversubscribed and DEQ has announced it will enter suspension on May 1st, 2023. Important programmatic changes like targeted rebate program outreach and EV education for low- and moderate-income communities, rural communities, and communities of color, as well as a new program feature for low-income applicants of the Charge Ahead program are now being set up and will allow for pre-qualification so low-income Oregonians taking advantage of this program can get the rebate off the price of their new or used EV immediately. These enhancements make it more important now than ever to ensure the program is funded enough to keep up with the demand.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2613 that will allocate \$30 million in one-time funding to OCVRP and will avoid the program being suspended for the rest of 2023 while it waits for its next round of funding. Longer term, unless we dedicate a more sustainable amount of funds to this program, OCVRP and its low-income qualifying program, Charge Ahead, will continue to fall short year after year, making it harder for Oregonians to make the switch to electric vehicles.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V Paykar".

Victoria Paykar
Oregon Transportation Policy Manager
Climate Solutions