



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

April 7, 2023

RE: HB 2613

Co-Chairs Gorsek, McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project strongly supports adopting HB 2613.

The bill will help to improve the health of all Oregonians and will provide an important driver to achieving Oregon's legislative commitment to ban the sale of new internal combustion engine passenger cars by 2035.

Oregon currently has 60,623 registered EVs, by some measures the second highest rate of EV adoption in the country. This is a testament to the desires of Oregon drivers to speed the transition to ZEVs.

Oregon's current EV incentive program has proven to be wildly popular, so much so that the current program will run out of incentive funds starting May 1st of this year. We urge the Committee to leverage HB 2613 to address the lack of funding from May 1 to June 30, 2023.

We also encourage the committee to shift the incentives to focus more on the climate justice component, targeting low- and middle-income Oregonians for these generous funds. This focus will help families make

their initial investment in an EV which will improve their neighborhood's air quality and save them money over the lifetime of the vehicle.

On a personal note, my family is driving our second EV. We would never again purchase an internal combustion engine vehicle! Electric vehicles are quiet, easy and fun to drive, safe, and they do not combust gasoline. Since transportation is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in Oregon, this bill has the potential to dramatically improve Oregon's air quality.

Thank you for your service,

Karen Harrington  
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter  
Legislative Committee, Co-Chair

#### About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions.

For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org) or on Twitter at @ClimateReality.