

April 7, 2023

To: Oregon Legislature, Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: HB 2613

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

My name is Eliza Garcia, and I was born and currently live in Roseburg, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to support HB 2613.

Most people by now are well aware of the climate crisis and the need for a movement toward a more sustainable future before it is too late. Day to day, it's easy to forget about this problem until a new natural disaster shows up, like the extreme heatwave and wildfires that hit Oregon this summer. Fossil fuels are accelerating the effects of climate change and putting the planet in danger with each use. Low-income communities and communities of color are at the frontlines of this crisis, and we need to do something now to protect the Earth. This is why I am urging you to pass HB 2613.

The Zero-Emission Incentive Fund has already been incredibly successful and increasing the fund will only allow more Oregonians to make the switch to electric vehicles. The transportation sector is one of the biggest contributors to pollution and the climate crisis. Though Oregon commitment to 100% renewable energy is a good start, we need to make the transition to clean energy in all sectors of society. Incentivizing electric vehicles allows them to be accessible to all people and help those underrepresented communities the most.

This bill will give Oregonians the resources and motivation to take a personal step to combat the climate crisis. The additional allocation will allow Oregon to continue being a climate champion and aid Oregon in hitting necessary and important state climate goals. Speaking as the generation that will suffer from the direct consequences of fossil fuels, I strongly urge you to pass HB 2613.

Thank you for your time.

Eliza Garcia

Roseburg, Oregon