

Submitter: Rich Peppers  
On Behalf Of: MCAT Transportation Committee  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Ways and Means Roadshow Testimony  
April 8, 2023

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee:

My name is Rich Peppers, and I live in Portland's Montevilla neighborhood. I organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, or MCAT, and am the co-chair of the MCAT Transportation Committee.

My main requests to you are:

First, please make it possible for Oregon to take advantage of the federal funding available for climate resilience and further greenhouse gas and pollution reduction steps.

Second, please support full funding of the Resilient Buildings Package and the Natural Solutions legislation; and funding for state agencies to administer key climate policies, such as the Climate Protection Program, Clean Fuels Program, or the 100% Clean Energy Goals under HB 2021.

Third, focusing on Oregon's #1 greenhouse gas and other pollution-emitting sector, Transportation, please fund HB 2571, HB 2613, and HB 2714 all of which provide incentives for purchasing or leasing zero-emission vehicles of different types, from regular EVs to certain kinds of trucks to micro-mobility options, which together with encouraging active transportation and transit will really help to curtail greenhouse gas emissions.

And fourth and last, I want to express concerns from the climate and funding perspective about the Interstate Bridge Replacement proposal. While I agree that the existing bridge must be replaced, I am concerned that this proposal is too ambitious and costly, and that even just Oregon's share of the total \$6.5 to \$7.5 Billion costs likely would mean debt-payments for decades, while our existing gas tax-based system is already failing to cover our current needs, let alone new debt service.

Thanks, again, for your time hearing my input.