

Submitter: James Cavin
On Behalf Of: MCAT
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2961

Thank you Chairman Lively and Committee members for your time. My name is Jim Cavin; I am a physical therapist in Cedar Hills, Oregon. I would like to offer written support of HB 2961 as the in-person committee hearing on the bill was delayed today in Salem. Requiring electrical charging access in new buildings is a low-cost, sensible way to improve the ease of use of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. One of the barriers to widespread adoption of these vehicles in spite of their lower cost of ownership is apprehension about charging access and time requirements, especially for renters and those in multi-family buildings. Providing Level 1 charging access is as simple as ensuring a standard 110 volt outlet—the same kind you use to power a hair dryer—near a parking space. To meet the alternative requirement, they can install a standard 220 volt outlet like one uses for an electric range stove or clothes dryer.

As an additional option, property owners can partner with companies like “it’s electric”, who will install level 2 chargers for free, use the property owners’ power supply, and split the revenues with the building owner, generating passive income for the owners.

Reducing our citizens' exposure to polluting fossil fuels will pay huge dividends in Oregonian’s health, resulting in a reduction in health care costs and an improvement in productivity, saving money while reducing the severity of climate risks. Any opportunity to do so should be considered, and a requirement as simple as this should be moved forward without hesitation.