



February 5, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Comment in Support of HB 2961: EV Ready Expansion

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

On behalf of Lloyd EcoDistrict, a community-based organization serving North and Northeast Portland, we urge you to support HB 2961, which expands the number of parking spaces in new buildings that must be EV-ready and increases the percentage of electrical service capacity dedicated to electric vehicle (EV) charging. This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that all Oregonians—especially those in multifamily housing—have equitable access to the infrastructure needed to transition to clean transportation.

The Need for EV Infrastructure

As of November 2024, there were over 100,000 registered EVs in Oregon, thanks in part to the state's leadership in promoting clean transportation. Programs like the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate have played a significant role in making EVs more accessible, particularly to low- and moderate-income households. More than 33,000 rebates have been distributed, with approximately 7,000 benefiting from the income-qualifying Charge Ahead and Standard+Charge Ahead programs. These rebates, which can total up to \$7,500 for qualifying households, help bring the cost of an EV closer to parity with traditional internal combustion vehicles. However, financial incentives alone are not enough; infrastructure remains the missing piece of the puzzle.

Barriers for Renters and Multifamily Residents

A key driver of EV adoption is the ability to charge at home. Yet, for many Oregonians—particularly renters and residents of multifamily buildings—home charging remains out of reach. With 40% of Oregonians renting their homes, expanding EV charging capacity in new multifamily and mixed-use developments is critical to ensuring that all residents, regardless of housing type or income level, can participate in the clean energy transition.





Why Lloyd EcoDistrict Cares

Lloyd EcoDistrict is particularly invested in this issue because our neighborhood is one of the densest in Portland, with nearly all housing being multifamily and 90% of residents being renters. With significant redevelopment expected over the next 15 years, including the 29.3-acre Lloyd Center Redevelopment, we anticipate a wave of new housing and mixed-use development. Ensuring these new buildings are equipped with EV-ready infrastructure is essential to supporting our growing community and ensuring equitable access to clean transportation. Without proactive policies like HB 2961, we risk leaving renters and multifamily residents behind in the transition to electric mobility.

Lessons from Our Charging Infrastructure Installation Experience

Lloyd EcoDistrict operates the CHAMP (Charging Advantage Member Program), which installs EV charging stations in already constructed buildings and parking lots. Through this program, we have firsthand experience with the high costs and logistical challenges of retrofitting multifamily and mixed-used buildings for EV charging. Installing charging infrastructure during initial construction is far more cost-effective than adding it later. HB 2961 will help ensure that new developments are designed with EV-readiness from the start, saving future costs and making clean transportation more accessible to renters and multifamily residents.

We do encourage the bill's sponsors to work closely with multifamily developers, particularly affordable housing developers, to refine and strengthen the legislation. Ensuring that charging infrastructure is both equitable and financially feasible for housing providers will be key to the bill's success.

HB 2961 represents an essential policy advancement that will remove a significant structural barrier to EV ownership, particularly for those living in multifamily housing. We urge you to support this bill to help make electric vehicle ownership a viable option for all Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Baker
Program Manager
Lloyd EcoDistrict
joshua@ecolloyd.org