

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2961

Dear House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I support HB 3170 as a tiny piece of the puzzle to get to a healthier future with fewer climate catastrophes.

Please note that the bill

1) applies only to commercial and 5+unit multifamily "new construction for which a person first applies for a building permit on or after July 1, 2026" and

2) requires only a portion of the parking spaces to have capacity for charging, 75% of which only need to accomodate a "level one" charger, i.e. be served by the same typical household 120V outlet that you would plug a hair dryer into.

For public health, happiness, and a livable future, we really need to figure out how to grow into a society where people can get around more on foot, bicycles or other micro-mobility devices, and public transit. But for the trips which for whatever reason need to be made in personal motor vehicles, EVs are more efficient, less expensive over their lifetime, and reduce toxic pollution, noise, and climate harms compared to internal combustion engine vehicles. People who live in apartments deserve the opportunity to access these benefits just as much as those in single family homes.

Please pass this bill as a small step towards a more equitable, healthier Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Helena Birecki