



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and B. Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

On behalf of 350PDX, we write to express strong support for HB 2961. 350PDX is a nonprofit organization with thousands of members in the Portland area, working on addressing and reversing the challenges of climate change in ways that are equitable.

Oregon has taken strides to reduce its climate burden and to reign in our greenhouse gas emissions through landmark bills and policies, such as the 100% clean energy bill and Gov. Brown's Executive Order 20-04.¹ **Yet, 2024 was again the hottest year on record** and was the first calendar year to surpass 1.5°C of global increased temperature,² and initial data suggests January 2025 topped 1.7°C over pre-industrial average temperatures.

Globally, we must transition away from greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels as quickly and efficiently as possible. In Oregon, **our largest emitting sector as of 2021 is transportation**, at 35% of our state's total emissions.³ It is our responsibility to make it possible for all Oregonians to be able to switch to cleaner transportation options, and to do so affordably and with infrastructure to support the transition. **HB 2961 updates a 2017 policy** requiring new parking facilities and certain commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings to be wired for electric vehicle charging; it makes good sense to also add more charging capacity to each newly constructed multifamily residential building or mixed-use building with five or more residential dwelling units.

Every Oregonian deserves access to clean transportation, regardless of where they live or how much money they earn. Unfortunately, that is not the world we live in. If you own a single-family home it is easy to install a charger in your garage. Electric charging is often not within reach, however, if you are one of the many Oregonians living in multifamily residential units — who are disproportionately middle- and low-income residents and communities of color.

Many community members want to make the switch to clean transportation in the form of an electric vehicle, but are hesitant to do so because they do not have reliable access

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/pages/executiveorder20-04.aspx>

² <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2024-first-year-exceed-15degc-above-pre-industrial-level>

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/pages/ghg-inventory.aspx>



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to charging at home. They're forced to choose between their desire to reduce pollution and the basic practicality of using their car. One of our members who owns an EV told us about living in an apartment without charging capacity, and discussed the anxiety-producing challenges of planning lengthy charging stops much more regularly than if she had been able to charge at home. Additionally, she shared the concern that **fast charging stations are often two to three times more expensive⁴ than paying for electricity drawn from one's own home**, and this makes it less affordable to drive an electric vehicle. HB 2961 helps ensure that as we build our clean energy future, we will not leave people behind.

Electric vehicles are not the only pathway to reducing our state's transportation emissions: we would like to see much more public transit that is affordable, convenient, and accessible to those living outside the Portland metro area. But EVs are part of the picture in meeting our state's climate goals, and as such we need to build infrastructure for all Oregonians to participate in this part of the energy transition. Without building charging infrastructure where people live, we are locking our clean future behind a paywall that harms us not only now, but well into our future.

We urge you to support HB 2961. Thank you for your consideration.

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<https://qmerit.com/blog/comparing-long-term-cost-analysis-of-ev-home-charging-vs-public-charging/#:~:text=Public%20EV%20Charging%20Station%20Fees,isn't%20a%20viable%20option.>