

Submitter: Joseph Stenger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3597

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, Members of the Committee:

My name is Joseph Stenger. I am Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee of MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together). I am writing in strong support of HB 3597-1.

Transportation is the largest sector of emissions in Oregon. Oregon has adopted emissions reduction goals. We have various tools to achieve this goal, including reducing vehicle miles traveled, shifting from road vehicles to transit and active transportation, changes in land use to reduce commuting, and vehicle electrification. This bill supports vehicle electrification by reducing cost barriers to EV purchase.

Until the Legislature is able to fully fund the Standard Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, I support directing most of available funds to the ChargeAhead Program for the benefit of lower income families. Once a family owns an EV, the cost of operating that vehicle is much lower than the cost of operating a similar combustion-engine vehicle. This is a win for low-income families and a win for clean air and improved climate.

The -1 amendment provides important improvements to the existing program. It will advance our climate goals.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3597 and to support its passage into law.

Thank you for your service on behalf of the good people of Oregon.

Joseph Stenger