



April 17, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

RE: Support HB 5520 – Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program

Dear Co-Chair Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair Representative Emerson Levy and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Forth's strong support of continued funding for the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP) as part of the Department of Environmental Quality's budget (SB 5520).

Forth is a nonprofit organization that works to advance clean and equitable transportation systems to move everyone and everything by bringing people together to create solutions that reduce pollutions and barriers to access. Forth works in partnership to build lasting program and policy models that significantly expand equitable access to electric transportation in the U.S. and beyond. Forth's membership includes auto manufacturers, electric vehicle charging suppliers, utilities, local governments, non-profit environmental organizations, and community-based organizations.

Established in 2017, the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP) is a key driver in promoting transportation equity and advancing the state's decarbonization goals by providing rebates for zero-emission vehicles. The OCVRP's popularity has led to a high demand for rebates, making the program unstable due to frequent funding shortages. Financial instability has led to ongoing suspensions, which has halted Oregon's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing equitable access to zero-emission vehicles. The OCVRP is funded through the State's Vehicle Privilege Tax, which allocates \$12 million per year or 45% of the annual tax, whichever is greater. **In 2023, the OCVRP went into program suspension for the first time in its history and was only open for four months. In 2024, it was only open for two months.**

The OCVRP is a vital program that has consistently demonstrated strong public demand. It has helped thousands of Oregonians, particularly those with low- and middle- incomes, afford the transition to clean, efficient electric vehicles. The program not only supports Oregon's ambitious transportation electrification goals such as 250,000 registered ZEVs by 2025, but also delivers clear climate and equity benefits by reducing emissions and expanding access to cleaner transportation options for all communities.

We urge the committee to continue investing in this highly effective program and to maintain Oregon's leadership in clean and electric transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support and for your continued attention to advancing equitable, clean transportation in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jeff Allen

Executive Director

Forth