

Submitter: Roger Knudson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and members of the committee:

My name is Roger Knudson. I live in Eugene. My wife and I moved to Eugene in the fall of 2022 in no small part because of the incredible natural beauty of the state. As a long-time climate activist, I support urgent action to preserve that beauty so that my children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy it.

I'm testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity, and climate resilience. I have been paying attention to the 2025 Transportation Package, and it is encouraging to see the progress made. It is a testament to the efforts of so many community members who came together to ensure we have a safe, clean, affordable transportation package.

I continue to have serious reservations about the package. Currently, the package lacks clear investments that address climate change and air pollution. Without key climate investments, Oregon's transportation package risks increasing pollution contributing to even greater disruption of the climate. Just days ago, atmospheric CO2 passed 430 parts per million and will go higher. With global temperatures setting records year after year, there is need for urgent action.

Increasing air pollution from transportation has severe negative real-time health consequences. It sickens and kills Oregonians, particularly in urban areas of our state. 19 of 36 counties in Oregon, from Washington to Malheur, have diesel pollution high enough to be carcinogenic.

If people are driving, we want that trip to be electrified because it's more affordable and it protects our air. The Move Oregon Forward coalition, which I support, wants to do this by making electric vehicles (EVs) affordable for people with low to moderate incomes, investing in public charging, and electrifying the biggest and most polluting trucks on our roads.

Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, preserving the incredible natural environment we all love, protecting public health, and preventing climate disaster. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,

Roger Knudson, Ph. D.
Eugene, Oregon
350 Eugene Volunteer