

Submitter:

Katherine Fredricks

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:

Thank you for the progress that has been made towards a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians. We need a transportation grid that is safe, cost efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable. So thank you for fixing potholes. But we need more. Currently, this package lacks any investments to reduce climate change and air pollution through clean, electric transportation.

I am tired of hearing people say that we cannot afford clean energy, when electric vehicles are both cheaper to run and cleaner than gas. Emissions from internal combustion engines are so toxic, that you can commit suicide by sitting in a parked car with the tail pipe blocked. All across America, insurance companies are raising premiums because of natural disasters made worse by climate change. More money to fight wildfires. Higher food prices because of global climate weirdness. Those are indirect subsidies we all pay to the fossil fuel industry.

Fossil fuel companies argue against subsidies for green tech, while receiving massive subsidies themselves. In the US, taxpayer subsidies for fossil fuels were estimated as high as \$20 billion annually UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION! The current administration is massively increasing those subsidies.

Capitalism depends on switching to a better product when you find it. This is your chance to give Oregon a transportation package that saves our money, our health and our environment, all at the same time.

As a cancer survivor, I know that you cannot have a healthy body without a healthy environment. I am 69 years old. I will probably die of old age. But children today will die of climate change if Americans continue to ignore the evidence of science and our own noses, to rely on outdated fossil fuels.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. This is your chance to put our tax dollars to work for the future. This is your chance to improve Oregon's air quality and lower pollution by funding clean transportation programs to help low-income Oregonians purchase electric vehicles, put more clean, zero-emission trucks on our roads, and expand charging infrastructure statewide.

We can't afford to wait. Let's build a future where every Oregonian has access to

safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation options. I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that saves our lives as it moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,
Katherine Fredricks, Portland OR