

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2025

Greetings, Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is David McChristian, and I am the founder and president of Lone Star Kei, a national non-profit advocating for fair policies and laws for miniature vehicles, including Kei trucks.

Lone Star Kei was founded in early 2023 to address concerns about the road legality of miniature vehicles. While our work began in Texas, where we successfully legalized these vehicles, we are now supporting efforts nationwide to expand access to these practical, reliable, and economical vehicles. In Oregon, Kei trucks-small, fuel-efficient vehicles with 660cc engines, typically at least 25 years old-are not currently legal for on-road use. House Bill 2025 would change that by legalizing Kei trucks, providing Oregonians with a safe, affordable, and environmentally friendly transportation option.

We are writing in strong support of House Bill 2025, which would legalize Kei trucks for on-road use in Oregon. This legislation will empower farmers, ranchers, and small businesses by providing a versatile, low-cost vehicle ideal for short trips, deliveries, and rural tasks. Kei trucks are renowned for their reliability, with many models lasting several decades, and their compact size ensures easy parking and maneuverability in urban and rural settings alike. By legalizing Kei trucks, HB 2025 will give Oregonians more transportation options, reducing reliance on larger, less efficient vehicles.

Beyond utility, Kei trucks contribute to the betterment of our communities' climate. Their small engines consume less fuel, producing lower emissions than traditional trucks or SUVs, aligning with Oregon's commitment to sustainability. Economically, legalizing Kei trucks will boost small businesses through vehicle sales, repairs, and related services, generating tax revenue and creating jobs. These vehicles are also safe, meeting Japan's strict standards for their class and designed for practical, moderate-speed use, making them a responsible choice for Oregon roads.

This bill aligns Oregon with other forward-thinking states that have embraced Kei trucks, ensuring fairness and opportunity for Oregonians who depend on or would benefit from these vehicles. We respectfully urge this committee to pass HB 2025, providing stability and choice for vehicle owners, supporting small businesses, and enhancing our state's environmental and economic future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David McChristian

President, Lone Star Kei