

Submitter: Denise Duren
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025
Subject: Support for Improved Transportation Funding

Dear Legislators,

My name is Denise Duren, and I am a long-time resident of Oregon, working as a Nurse Practitioner for several decades. I have been actively involved with the Josephine County Bikes and Pathways Committee, where I have witnessed firsthand the health benefits of well-funded transportation options for my patients. Access, safety, environmental protection, and inclusivity are essential to safeguarding our communities.

I want to express my support for HB2025, which allocates critical funding for street safety programs that Oregonians have long advocated for. However, I am concerned that it currently lacks funding for off-street networks and trails that connect residents to schools, workplaces, and public transit, including the necessary bike lanes, paved sidewalks, and multi-use trails. Investment in these areas is vital for enhancing safety, improving access, and promoting mobility in rural areas.

If people are driving, we should work towards electrifying those trips, as this approach is more affordable and helps protect our air quality. The Move Oregon Forward initiative aims to electrify the largest and most polluting trucks, invest in public charging infrastructure, and make electric vehicles (EVs) accessible for individuals with low to moderate incomes.

It is crucial for Oregonians who purchase electric vehicles to have convenient access to charging stations. The funding for Community Charging Rebates and the Zero Emission Fueling Program will help bring necessary charging infrastructure to rural and underserved communities. We need the transportation package to focus on clean truck investments—providing rebates, expanding charging infrastructure, and ensuring cleaner air for the communities most affected by diesel pollution.

Air pollution from transportation is a significant health threat, particularly in our urban areas. Alarming, 19 out of 36 counties in Oregon, from Washington to Malheur, have diesel pollution levels that are considered carcinogenic. As the package is currently drafted, it risks missing necessary investments in clean electric vehicles and charging infrastructure while also introducing burdensome new fees that disproportionately affect EV users.

Thank you for considering my input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Denise Duren
Salem, Oregon 97306