

Submitter: Seojin Ha

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 Seojin Ha, and I live in Portland. 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. In particular, I urge you to fully fund electrification.

Oregon's communities need a better transportation system that is healthy, affordable, and safe. Imagine an Oregon where we can all go to our schools, workplaces, and homes while reducing carbon emissions and improving our energy efficiency. Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment, and public health.

It's essential to pass a transportation package that advances towards a state of clean energy.

When I lived in South Korea, I remember the public transportation being extremely safe and cost-effective. It only took one USD to zip from one city to another. In addition, a majority of trains there are electric. As a consumer, these factors of low monetary investment and clean energy appealed to me as someone who genuinely cares about the environment. However, when I moved to America, the lack of public transportation shocked me. There were so many cars on the road. Would these vehicles not pollute our environment? As a reminder, this was only Portland, so I could only imagine the scale of greenhouse gases emitted by our entire country. Oregon needs to serve as a role model for America in clean energy public transportation. Investing into electrification is only the next step for public transportation to go from environmentally friendly to environmentally secure.

New dollars must be prioritized to meet our safety, climate, and mobility needs. If we're going to ask Oregonians to pay more, we have an obligation to put their dollars to work for the future.

That means improving air quality and lowering 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 moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,  
Seojin Ha  
Portland, Oregon