

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment re: HB 2025 -28

June 26, 2025

Jacqui Treiger, Senior Campaign Manager Oregon Environmental Council

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance equitable, innovative, and collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Dear Co-chairs Pham and McLain, Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee,

My name is Jacqui Treiger, and I am the senior campaign manager at Oregon Environmental Council. Founded in 1968, OEC is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance equitable, innovative, and collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

First I'd like to extend our appreciation to the committee for their work on this package, and navigating all the challenges that have come with it. OEC has been involved in every transportation package for at least the last two decades. We have prided ourselves in building bridges with stakeholders of all stripes and forming allyship across issue areas to better tackle our climate challenges in transportation.

Along with our partners in the Move Oregon Forward coalition, we have recruited every day Oregonians to be a part of this transportation package process. We brought out more than 100 Oregonians to the capitol to share their stories directly with you. And we have been at the capitol, advocating for common sense solutions.

Transportation is Oregon's largest source of climate pollution and it is our greatest opportunity for safer, more accessible, and healthier communities. We are excited to see dedicated funding for pedestrian and bicyclist safety programs and historic investments in public transportation so we don't have to cut this essential service everyday Oregonians rely on.

Unfortunately, the bill taken as a whole won't do enough and in time to avoid climate catastrophe. The TRIP bill fails to meaningfully invest in off-street multi-use paths and clean, electric vehicles or charging infrastructure. Failing to invest in transportation electrification, a proven tool to clean our air and reduce climate pollution, will only lead to increased heat waves, flooding, and wildfires affecting the health and economy of all Oregonians.

Oregon is known as a national leader on the environment with a history of action through programs like clean fuels, and forward thinking land use. This package falls short of this legacy. While we're disappointed – this package makes steps in the right direction. We should pass HB 2025 for what it gets right. We have more work to do to meet Oregon's climate pollution reduction and air quality goals. OEC is committed to continue to fight for what Oregonians are asking for: healthy air and a stable environment for today and future generations.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Treiger Senior Campaign Manager **Oregon Environmental Council** <u>jacquit@oeconline.org</u>