



3/3/26

Co-Chairs Girod, Ross, and members of the Committee,

Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led organization committed to climate justice, public health, and building green communities. Key to these goals are public transit, active transportation, and motor vehicle electrification solutions that decrease vehicle miles traveled and reduce climate and air pollution.

Therefore, we **oppose SB 1601-3** which would raid nearly \$50 million from safety, rail, transit, and EV charging.

Oregon should not balance its books by harming schoolchildren, disabled folks, or communities already facing rising costs, soaring unemployment, and climate impacts.

Safety is not negotiable. This bill would take \$17 million from Safe Routes to School and \$8 million from Oregon Community Paths. That is more than 60% of both programs' budgets. This funding builds the crossings, sidewalks, and paths that allow children to get to class without risking their lives. Additionally, the removal of funds from rail programs including Amtrak Cascades will create more traffic, more pollution, and more fatal accidents along I-5 if cuts cause reduced frequency of the frequently full Amtrak Cascades trains.

Climate and clean air is not negotiable. This bill would take \$8 million dollars from promised community charging funds. Electric vehicles cost less throughout their lifetimes and eliminate tailpipe pollution as well as being more climate-friendly than gas-powered vehicles even on our current electric grid. Don't remove money from pollution-reducing programs that help prevent lung cancer, asthma, and premature births.

These programs were started and continued with broad support because they work. They reduce pollution, lower household costs, and keep rural communities connected to the rest of the state. The [Senate Democrats](#) and [House Democrats](#) both put out priorities that include lowering costs for Oregonians. Cutting programs that do that is not the answer.

As part of the Move Oregon Forward coalition, we know that advocates and communities have come to the table with no-cost and low-cost ideas based on successful models in other states.. Lawmakers have repeatedly promised to prioritize community needs, but the legislature has failed to cooperate with communities or seriously consider our suggested alternatives that preserve both jobs and essential programs. Instead, you have these unsustainable cuts that provide tiny savings today while costing us much more much later. You cannot continue to siphon tax dollars from working Oregonians while cutting the very services those dollars are meant to fund.

These cuts should not move forward, and we expect community needs and health to actually be prioritized in the 2027 transportation package.

Sincerely,
Amanda Duncan
Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

About The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. climaterealitypdx.com/, www.climaterealityproject.org