

Testimony to the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee on Senate Bill 536

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

Oregon Environmental Council supports SB 536.

This bill will encourage the use of electric vehicle (EV) and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles by providing more fueling options to Oregonians at no cost to the state.

Access to EV charging and access to CNG fueling are essential if we want to see widespread adoption of vehicles fueled by alternative fuels. Where the state already provides these options (or wishes to contract with a private company to do so), that infrastructure should be utilized broadly, not merely by state vehicles alone. It's a more efficient use of state resources, resources that are owned by the people of Oregon, and it helps achieve Oregon's environmental and economic goals.

From an economic perspective Oregon sends more than \$6 billion out of state each year importing gas and diesel fuel, money that by and large doesn't benefit our state economy. When people power their cars by electricity or CNG, they benefit the burgeoning Oregon EV industry and the Oregon-based natural gas industry.

From an environmental perspective, EVs and CNG are better alternatives from both an air quality and climate change perspective:

- CNG vehicles improve air quality by reducing CO, NOx, particulate matter and VOC emissions. The air toxics benzene, 1-3 butadiene, and diesel particulate matter are also reduced compared to vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel. CNG is also lower carbon than gasoline or diesel.
- Electric cars are a very important strategy for reducing traffic-related air pollution because they produce no pollution at the tailpipe. Looking upstream to where electricity is generated, fossil-fuel power plants do generate emissions; however based on the Oregon electricity grid, EVs reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions by over 60%. (For more information on fuel emission characteristics, see the USDOE calculator at http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles/electric_emissions.php.)

It will take a combination of policies and programs, from the Clean Fuels Program to SB 536, to help us achieve a more diverse, environmentally friendly, and secure transportation fuel supply. OEC urges you to support SB 536.