



Oregon  
Environmental  
Council  
It's Your Oregon

222 NW Davis Street  
Suite 309  
Portland, OR 97209-3900  
503.222.1963  
www.oconline.org

**Testimony to the House Energy and Environment  
Committee  
on House Bill 2092  
April 2, 2015**

**Angela Crowley-Koch, Legislative Director  
Oregon Environmental Council**

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 HB 2092 to support a clean car rebate in Oregon that will reduce traffic pollution on roadways, decrease climate pollution, and extend clean car opportunities for more middle-class Oregonians.

**Traffic Pollution Harms Oregonians**

Tailpipe pollution is a major contributor to air toxics in Oregon. Cars that run on gasoline and diesel pump cancer-causing chemicals, like benzene and formaldehyde, into the air that we breathe. Tailpipe pollution has been linked to autism, asthma, and heart and lung disease. People who live near roadways are particularly vulnerable, and children born to mothers living near high traffic areas are often born with lower birth weights, which can then lead to future health and developmental problems.<sup>1</sup>

The transportation sector is also responsible for the largest share of Oregon's climate pollution. Oregon is at risk for a 3-10 degree temperature increase if we do not adequately address climate pollution.<sup>2</sup> Although Oregon has made some progress, we are currently falling far behind in meeting our 2020 climate goals, established in 2007.

**Clean Cars Are an Important Solution**

Oregon has a commitment to putting more zero-emission vehicles on the road. Electric vehicles put out no tailpipe pollution, creating immediate air quality benefits. EVs in Oregon also significantly reduce carbon pollution, no matter where they are charged in the state.

**Effective Policy**

Oregon no longer has a state incentive for electric vehicle purchases. This bill will provide a time of sale rebate—proven to be the most effective way to promote new electric vehicle ownership—precisely at time when it is critical to get more zero emissions vehicles on the road. The bill also supports EVs that are built right here in Oregon, including Brammo's electric motorcycles and neighborhood vehicles.

Oregon is a leader in building out an EV charging network, but consumers—especially middle class consumers—still need assistance in purchasing vehicles.

**For Oregon's climate and health, we urge your strong support of HB 2092.**

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/oct/15/study-air-pollution-traffic-low-birthweight>; and <http://www.livescience.com/26962-air-pollution-low-birth-weight.html>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/northwest.html>