



February 17, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: House Bills 2510-A and 2511-A**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We write in strong support of HB 2510-A and 2511-A before you today. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. These bills help renters of apartments and commercial spaces to overcome a common barrier of entry that currently slows the adoption of electric vehicles. The benefits to Oregon from electric vehicles are significant, including reduced air and climate pollution and keeping more of the dollars we spend on transportation close to home.

A study by Drive Oregon released in 2015 showed the positive impact that increased reliance on electric vehicles has on our economy.<sup>1</sup> The 5,000 electric vehicles on the road in Oregon at the time of the 2015 study contributed an estimated \$10 million annually to the state economy, and generated over \$675,000 in state and local tax revenue. Now that electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles in the state total more than 12,000, those economic benefits have undoubtedly increased tremendously as well. An average Oregon family can save hundreds of dollars per month driving an electric vehicle. Further, if 15% of new car buyers in the state chose electric, those car purchases would contribute between \$113-\$182 million annually to Oregon's economy.

Oregon has committed to science-based greenhouse gas reduction goals, to cut pollution 75% below 1990 levels by 2050.<sup>2</sup> While a wide variety of state and local policies brought us closer toward achieving these goals – most recently the Oregon Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan (SB 1547) and Clean Fuels Program – the most significant remaining barrier to reaching these targets is rising transportation emissions. The Oregon Global Warming Commission's recent report to the legislature highlighted that the use of gasoline and diesel are responsible for **60% of the state's increased climate emissions** from 2014 to 2015.<sup>3</sup> Protecting our health

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<sup>1</sup> <http://driveoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Oregon-EV>Returns.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Oregon Revised Statutes § 468A.205

<sup>3</sup> Oregon Global Warming Commission, Biennial Report to the Legislature 2017, <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/95809>

and environment by meeting Oregon's greenhouse goals will require dramatic acceleration of the transition to electric vehicles, including most new car sales by 2050 and electrified transit. We support HB 2510-A and HB 2511-A as enabling Oregonians who live in apartments or work in leased office buildings to have the right to install and charge their electric vehicles. Increasing access to charging by leveling the playing field for these residential and commercial renters in negotiations with their landlords will help broaden the opportunity for more residents in our state to own clean and affordable electric vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we urge you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Policy Manager