

HB2510 and HB2511

As noted in a recent “report card”, Oregon is behind in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases related to transportation. One key enabler for achieving our goals in this area is the widespread adoption of electrified transportation. Today, when obtaining affordable housing is elusive for many young people whose future is at stake, we need to enable those that must rent to contribute to our goals by driving plug-in cars.

Most personal electric vehicles are charged at night at home, which benefits utility companies in managing the grid by enabling them to sell their oversupply of off-peak base load, supporting their fixed costs of transmission and distribution, which has the potential of reducing electric rates for all consumers.

The money spent in this manner stays in our local Oregon economy rather than being exported other states and foreign countries. It also helps our energy security and economics for all of us, not just those that drive electric. Reduced demand for fossil fuels keeps supply in line with the diminishing cheap, relatively clean, conventional sources of transportation fuel.

Automakers now produce dozens of plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles that are available in Oregon at ever more affordable prices; and electricity is ubiquitous, but we still have the “last hundred feet” problem in connecting parking facilities to the grid. We support these bills as an effort to bridge that gap.

Makers of electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE) also have an abundance of certified products to help. They can be hard-wired to a standard outlet or use standard outlets. Many have solutions to access control to ensure that only those who are paying for the electricity receive it—this can be as simple and inexpensive as a key. Since it is our experience that urban, homeowner drivers spend an additional \$20 on their monthly electric bill, there is some headroom for the tenants to assist improve the property in this manner. We expect that ultimately property owners will also come to see this as a benefit, and hopefully retain improvements bringing electricity to the parking areas, even if the EVSE itself is retained by the former tenants.

Apartment dwellers have come to expect internet and cable services. They should also expect to be able to use electricity for the purpose of transportation. When they do this the public benefits in many ways.

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The OEVA is non-profit association of electric vehicle enthusiasts. We promote electric vehicle education and encourage their safe construction and use.