

May 6, 2019

Co-Chair Lee Beyer  
Co-Chair Caddy McKeown  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1044

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and members of the committee:


As cities that have been working diligently with the members of our community to advance policies that address the ever-growing impacts of climate change, we write today in support of Senate Bill 1044. In recent years, we have set our own aggressive goals around carbon free energy, sought ways to shrink the carbon footprint of our city operations, and have supported our residents as they seek to do the same with theirs. We are encouraged to see the legislature taking action on climate issues this legislative session, and Senate Bill 1044 adds a complement to those other actions.

We know that without advancement on reducing climate change causing emissions from the transportation sector, that the state has no chance of meeting its broader goals. SB 1044 creates a starting point in which meaningful policy around the adoption of zero emission vehicles and associated infrastructure in the state can occur. The bill outlines broad goals and metrics to measure the state's progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. This is important not only in the fight against climate change, but also provides opportunities to invest in a more economical transportation system that benefits all our residents.

The bill also provides ways in which public bodies can add zero emission vehicles to fleets and supports the associated charging infrastructure. Allowing schools to utilize the funds they receive through the Public Purpose Charge for vehicle electrification means that the efficiency gains in energy usage need not occur just within the walls of the school.

As a city, our job is to ensure that our residents have a safe place to live and thrive. SB 1044 will provide the groundwork for encouraging zero emission vehicles usage statewide ensuring our communities are on a path towards a clean energy future. We urge your support of SB 1044.

Respectfully,

  
Denny Doyle  
Mayor  
City of Beaverton, Oregon