



May 13, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson  
Chair, House Revenue Committee  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: HB 3203 A

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Marsh and Findley, and Members of the Committee:

Forth is a nonprofit trade association that advocates for the advancement of electric, hydrogen, shared, smart, connected, and autonomous mobility. Forth supports these initiatives through demonstration pilot projects, public outreach and education, industry networking and legislative and regulatory advocacy across the nation. Forth has over 160 members representing auto manufacturers, electric vehicle charging suppliers, industry partners, utilities, local governments, non-profits, environmental organizations and many additional stakeholders within the transportation electrification “ecosystem”.

ODOT’s Statewide Transportation Strategy calls for 95% of Oregon’s vehicles to be electric, plug-in hybrids or hybrids by 2050 in order to achieve the carbon emissions reduction goals in HB 2020. Electric and hybrid vehicles currently make up just 3.26% of registered vehicles in Oregon, and ODOT projects that on our current trajectory, they will only account for 24% of all vehicles by 2050.

As written, HB 3023 A includes a provision for a “fee of two cents for each prearranged ride for the purpose of deploying throughout this state charging stations and related infrastructure for electric vehicles.” This fee will provide critically important funding for the development and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure. In the immediate future, the EV fee would allow Oregon to save the West Coast Electric Highway (WCEH), a network of 44 publicly available electric vehicle fast chargers that fill in gaps in charging infrastructure that private investment would not and allow EV owners to travel the length of our state and connect to California and Washington. The WCEH remains the only high-speed charging option in many parts of Oregon and is especially important for electric vehicle owners in rural areas.

The West Coast Electric Highway is at risk of going “dark” without additional funding, stranding thousands of Oregon’s electric vehicle owners and causing Oregon’s charging infrastructure to take a significant step backwards. Forth urges the Oregon Legislature to save this critical piece

of electric vehicle infrastructure and move Oregon towards meeting our transportation emissions goals by including an electric vehicle fee in whichever version of HB 3023 moves forward this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Shaw

**FORTH** Empowering Mobility

JEANETTE SHAW |  
Sr. Director, Public Affairs & Policy  
P: 503.724.8670 x106 | C: 971.285.2307

[FORTHMOBILITY.ORG](https://www.forthmobility.org)

*[The Roadmap 12 program is now live - view it here!](#)*