



Oregon Environmental Council



From the Desk of Representative Marty Wilde



Vote YES on HB 4068A

ALL Oregonians deserve access to electric vehicles

FEB 19 2020
Chief Clerk's Office

With carbon emissions from the transportation sector accounting for approximately 40 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 and light-duty vehicles accounting for more than half the transportation sector's emissions, now is a critical time for the public sector to take action to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

Transportation is the also second-highest expense for most households, and EVs can dramatically reduce those costs. Using electricity to fuel a car is roughly equivalent to buying gasoline for \$1 per gallon, and EVs do not need oil changes and require very little maintenance.

In order for EVs to be a viable option for all Oregonians, we need to greatly expand the availability of places to charge them. Studies show that people seldom buy EVs if they cannot charge them at home or at work, and many Oregonians—particularly those who live in multifamily housing—simply do not have access to charging facilities.

HB 4068A increases accessibility to EV charging by ensuring that parking facilities for new buildings are EV-ready.

Key elements of HB 4068A

- **Prepares parking areas for the future installation of EV chargers** by updating the state building code to ensure that parking areas for new commercial development and new multifamily housing of 5+ units have the conduit and provisions for electrical service capacity necessary to install EV chargers at 20% of parking spaces.
- **Helps property owners to avoid the significant expense** of retrofitting parking lots for charging infrastructure later on. Case studies have shown that it can cost up to five times as much to retrofit parking lots for EV chargers versus preparing them at the time of construction.
- **Minimizes costs** by *not* requiring charging stations or transmission equipment to be installed at the time of construction.
- **Meets growing consumer demand for charging infrastructure**—As of December 2019, EV ownership in Oregon was increasing by more than 20 percent annually (Data from Oregon Dept. of Energy, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality).

If EVs are going to be a truly viable alternative to gas-powered cars, it needs to be easy to charge them no matter where you live. The buildings being built now will last for half a century or more, and House Bill 4068A will help ensure that these buildings are prepared for the future of our transportation system. **Please vote YES on HB 4068A.**