

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 12, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation

Ref: HB 3056

Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain:

We, the undersigned, believe there is an alternative to the passage of HB 3056 that keeps faith with all four transit districts that retain unused credits under the Energy Incentive Program administered by the Oregon Department of Energy. Accordingly, we are working with stakeholders on language for transferring the outstanding value of the credits (totaling approximately \$7,200,000) and retiring the program itself. The scope of this approach would include the four remaining transit district holding credits: Columbia County, Lebanon, Salem-Keizer, and Yamhill transit agencies.

As you know, HB 3056 was brought forward in good faith by the Salem-Keizer Transit District (aka Cherriots). This organization did everything right: they participated in the program, made investments aligned with program goals, and have an intention to invest the total value of outstanding credits in the expansion of electrification efforts. We also believe other districts could, and would, benefit from revenues made available for investments in electrical infrastructure for people of their communities.

We believe the most effective strategy available to us is for a “committee ask,” led by you both, for an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) request equal to the value of the credits (as they were assumed). Your sponsorship of this one-time investment would render HB 3056 (and its potential precedent) unnecessary. We think this “one-time buy-out” approach is an effective, fair, and transparent path forward for all involved in a well-intended but currently unworkable electrification incentive approach.

In conclusion, thank you for your consideration of our proposal. Together we can help accelerate the transition into a more environmentally sustainable transportation reality, but only together. Investments such as this play a critical part for our communities as they seek to follow our lead. Please let us know if you have any additional questions or require more information.

Respectfully,

Paul Evans
State Representative
District 20

Karin Power
State Representative
District 41