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February 3, 2021

The Honorable Pam Marsh
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2165 – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Marsh,

PacifiCorp is an integrated electric utility serving 1.9 million customers in six states across the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. In Oregon, we operate as Pacific Power and serve approximately 620,000 customers from Astoria to Wallowa and Gold Beach to Lakeview.

We are also the state's largest rural electricity provider and have an important perspective on electrifying transportation equitably for our customers in non-urban areas of the state.

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature set ambitious zero emission vehicle adoption goals in Senate Bill 1044. To meet those goals and realize the benefits of transportation electrification across the state, Oregon must accelerate the deployment of both electric vehicles and the infrastructure to fuel them.

Pacific Power supports House Bill 2165 and the multiple ways it will help accelerate transportation electrification across the state. The bill will extend and improve Oregon's Charge Ahead Rebate to better serve low-income and rural communities and will improve community-based outreach to increase underserved communities' access to and use of the rebate.

Additionally, the bill will support utility investment in electric vehicle infrastructure by providing clear authority for the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) to allow regulated electric utilities to proactively plan for and invest in infrastructure to serve electric vehicles as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

We have heard experiences from customers and travelers throughout service territory that infrastructure to support transportation electrification would make the purchase of an electric vehicle more viable. We have even received feedback that our charging station in Klamath Falls made it possible for an EV driver to make the drive from California to Bend in the winter. That same driver let us know that during their stop in Klamath Falls, they enjoyed a great burrito from local restaurant El Palacio – an example of the positive economic impact an expansion in charging infrastructure could have on small businesses at a critical time.

The timing of this legislation is also well-aligned with the pending results of the Oregon Department of Transportation's transportation needs assessment called for in Executive Order 20-04. With the expected release of the study in late spring, utilities will have a better understanding of where the focused deployment of charging infrastructure may have the greatest impact on communities across their service area.

We appreciate the work by all those involved with this legislation as it is a significant step forward that will allow Oregon to advance statewide transportation electrification and make electric vehicle use and ownership a viable option for more Oregonians and travelers driving through.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a distinct "P" at the end.

Annette Price