



To: Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Rhett Lawrence, Pacific Northwest Policy Manager  
Date: February 23, 2021  
RE: Support for House Bill 2290

Co-Chairs McLain and Beyer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rhett Lawrence and I am the Pacific Northwest Policy Manager for Forth. We are a nonprofit trade association that advocates for the advancement of electric, hydrogen, shared, smart, connected, and autonomous mobility. Forth has nearly 200 members, including auto manufacturers, electric vehicle charging suppliers, industry partners, utilities, local governments, and non-profit environmental organizations.

As you know, Oregon has ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals and we are already behind in meeting them. And given that the transportation sector is now the biggest component of our state's greenhouse gas emissions, it is critical that we take steps to get those transportation emissions headed down — and quickly. Dramatically increasing the use of electric vehicles is one of the most significant steps we can take to reduce those transportation emissions.

Forth has thus been very supportive of any policy proposals which would speed up our state's transition to greater EV adoption, including making our homes, workplaces, and other destinations in the state more conducive to EV charging. It is clear that if we are to have widespread adoption of EVs in Oregon, we will also need to greatly expand the availability of places to charge them.

House Bill 2290 will help us tackle the challenge of remedying the charging gap in Oregon. In its original incarnation — requiring that State Parks and Recreation Department develop and implement a plan for installation of electric vehicle charging stations — the bill could have made substantial strides toward expanding the charging network in our state. Forth would have greatly preferred that version of the bill, but we recognize the budget constraints the legislature is operating under in 2021. But even as modified by the -1 amendment, the bill could still open some doors for the expansion of the EV charging network in Oregon.

For these reasons, Forth supports HB 2290 and urges this Committee to do the same. Thank you very much for considering my comments and please do not hesitate to reach out if I may be of further assistance to the Committee.

**FORTH** Empowering Mobility

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