



February 23, 2021

Representative McLain, Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair McLain and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of The Environmental Center in Bend, Oregon in support of House Bill 2290. At The Environmental Center, we work hard to help advance clean technology in Central Oregon communities. Through this work we are often working with our community members to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles .

We believe that Oregon State Parks are in a unique position to fill an essential gap in EV charging infrastructure and HB2290 would send a clear signal to allow them to build out that essential infrastructure. We see EV charging in recreation areas as having two main benefits, One is it enables the growing EV driver population the ability to visit these remote areas, and the charging helps accelerate adoption by serving as a billboard to prospective EV drivers who may not equate recreation destinations and electric vehicles.

For example, Smith Rock State Park is one of Oregon's most visited parks. With its remote location in Terrebonne, many long distance visitors would have trouble making the trip in an EV. For example, If Smith Rock were to install charging, one of you could travel from Salem to Smith Rock in a 2020 Chevy Bolt, charge while you enjoyed the park for the day, and you would be able to make it back without any additional stops. These are the kind of conveniences that can allow for expanded travel while reducing the transportation related emissions needed to get there.

The second major benefit is that EV charging stations are very visible. This helps Oregon residents that like to recreate in Oregon State Parks to start to consider an EV as their next car. For example, we helped Mt. Bachelor ski area in its efforts to install 6 Level 2 EV charging stations last winter. Sitting by the chargers one morning I overheard numerous people walking by the line of plugged in cars say, "wow, I didn't even know EV's could drive in the snow" and "I wonder how much those cost to drive."

Finally I want to stress that although there are other efforts to build out charging opportunities in the state, I don't believe that they will necessarily address State Parks, and the benefits they would provide to rural parts of the state, and tourism.

Please support HB 2290 as an easy path to encourage improved EV charging options at state parks.

Thank you for your time,

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