

Submitter: Kenneth Ransfer
On Behalf Of: Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB1558

February 3, 2022

Joint Transportation Committee

900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boquist, Vice-Chair Boshart Davis, and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee:

I am submitting testimony before the Committee today to share how the network company zero-emission mandate bill will impact our communities of faith.

While we support the fight against climate change, we believe SB 1558 will ultimately hurt the very people it's intended to help.

The legislation's mandate that all third-party food delivery platform drivers use a zero-emissions vehicle by 2032 will significantly harm members of our congregations who rely on these platforms to make ends meet. As these drivers use their own cars to make deliveries, this legislation would create an undue burden on those merely trying to get by and provide for their families.

Electric vehicles are expensive, and we know this would be a significant or impossible investment for many of our congregants, and would likely preclude them from earning on these platforms at all – cutting off a necessary source of extra income for them.

Today, people choose their cars based on how it best fits their life, not for the purpose of deliveries. Without reliable EV charging stations and financial accessibility, the bill's requirements for EVs are not feasible until EVs become more accessible and equitable.

Our communities of faith share your desire to take climate change action, but this legislation demonstrates a lack of consistency and alignment toward the actual goals of reducing carbon emissions.

We've witnessed our congregants navigate an especially challenging last few years, and we strive to help alleviate burdens wherever possible. Today, we ask that the legislature not create an undue burden on our community members by passing the emissions mandate language for third-party food delivery platforms in SB 1558.

We welcome future discussions on addressing this important issue area, and are open to working together to build a more green and equitable future for our congregants and greater community.

Thank you for your time.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Ransfer, Vice President of the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest, and Pastor-Elect, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Portland