

To the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I'm writing to provide input about the transportation funding review.

As a writer who specializes in clean energy and climate change, I support measures that make transportation safe, low carbon and accessible. I support the idea of creating compact, mixed-use neighborhoods with networks for walking, rolling, biking and taking public transit.

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As the happy owner of an electric vehicle (EV) for the last seven years, I'd like to see others, especially low-income residents, reap the environmental and cost benefits of driving EVs.

I support incentives and education to make ownership, sharing, charging and renting of EVs affordable, safe and accessible. We need incentives that include buying used EVs. The incentives should be higher for low-income community members.

We should use solar to help charge EVs wherever possible and, in high-use charging areas, consider solar microgrids that can lower the burden on utilities by charging during off-peak hours or separating from the grid.

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I'd also like to see efforts to test and implement vehicle-to-grid programs under which the batteries in EVs can support the grid when it's stressed. When EVs are not being driven, their batteries can become important resources that shore up the grid during energy emergencies. They can also help keep air conditioning running in cooling centers or refrigerate medicine during power outages.

Again, transportation efforts should focus on safety, cutting carbon emissions and ensuring low-income community members have access to clean vehicles and clean air.

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Best,

Lisa Cohn

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