

Submitter: Larry Thompson  
On Behalf Of: Portland Chapter Climate Reality  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: HB2700

February 21, 2023

RE: HB 2700 - Support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Levy, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment.

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project strongly supports adopting HB 2700 which will help to reduce the greenhouse gases (GHGs) which are emitted by Oregon's agriculture sector and improve the health and well-being of our farmers.

According to a July 2022 article in Inside Climate News, "Emissions from fuel combustion in agriculture amounted to 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2019, about 0.6 percent of the U.S.'s total emissions that year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. It's part of agriculture's 10 percent share of total U.S. emissions."

The adverse environmental and health effects of GHGs have been widely documented. According to the Centers for Disease Control "More frequent wildfires and poor air quality are expected to increase respiratory illnesses in the decades to come. Wildfire smoke can be severe, particularly in communities in the eastern Northwest. Smoke events during 2004–2009 were associated with a 7.2% increase in respiratory hospital admissions among adults over 65 in the western United States."

We recognize that current electric tractor technology and costs may not support the purchase of larger electric tractors, (i.e. > 70 bhp), however smaller electric tractors are an important first step in the adoption of larger and more capable electric tractors. We note that the technology being developed for Class 8 electric semi's (e.g. Freightliner eCascadia, up to 470 bhp) will benefit the electric farm tractor market in the next few years.

We offer two suggestions as follows:

- 1) Increase the incentives to a level where electric tractors begin to reach price parity, on a total cost of ownership basis, with fossil fuel tractors.
- 2) Extend the incentives to Level 2 and Level 3 chargers required to charge electric tractors.

Given the above we urge the Committee to strongly support and enhance HB2700.

Thank you.

Links:

A New Project in Rural Oregon Is Letting Farmers Test Drive Electric Tractors in the Name of Science

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/13072022/a-new-project-in-rural-oregon-is-letting-farmers-test-drive-electric-tractors-in-the-name-of-science/>

Regional Health Effects - Northwest

<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/northwest.htm>

Larry Thompson

Climate Reality, Portland Chapter

<https://climaterealitypdx.com>

About The Climate Reality Project

Founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project is working to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org) or follow Climate Reality on Twitter at @ClimateReality