



HB 2700: A strong step in the right direction for e-tractors

House Climate, Energy and Environment – Jody Wisner – 2.20.2023

Chair Marsh and Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, I am pleased to speak in favor of this bill today. My name is Jody Wisner, and I am speaking on behalf of Tax Fairness Oregon, a coalition of volunteers working for a fair and equitable state.

This bill creates Oregon subsidies for electric farm equipment that are similar to those for electric vehicles. This is definitely a step in the right direction. We are happy to see that off-road electric equipment is becoming available and agree that subsidies for farmers as they transition to electric tractors are in order. However, we would make a couple of improvements to this bill.

- 1) Require that those farmers getting these subsidies be registered Oregon businesses with at least 60% of their gross income coming from farm operations. This assures the vehicles will have frequent use and will go to true farming operations rather than hobby farms.
- 2) For all subsidized electric vehicles change line 21, page 4 to “Rebate recipients may be **required requested** to participate in ongoing research efforts.” Otherwise any research will not be fully representative.
- 3) Make a similar grant program available to government agencies as well as farmers since many have responsibilities for maintenance of parks and trails and operate tractors similar to the electric tractors currently available.

The two rebate amounts in this bill seem appropriate to the costs of available electric tractors and are comparable to the subsidies for electric cars.

We urge you to add some sideboards and then vote yes on this bill.

We read the bills and follow the money