



March 29, 2023

To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee

Re: HB 5018 Please include funding for Oregon's Clean Vehicle Rebate Program in DEQ Budget

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

The Street Trust is a membership advocacy organization representing street users from across Greater Portland regardless of mode. We work to break political gridlock and win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand mobility and opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects. Transportation electrification and decarbonization are important to this, so **we believe the DEQ budget needs to include sufficient funding for Oregon's Clean Vehicle Rebate Program.**

The program has assisted over 25,000 Oregonians in the transition to clean electric vehicles since its inception in 2018 and has helped close a substantial affordability gap in EV adoption. Unfortunately this program is about to enter a period of suspension due to the lack of funding. Without action by the Legislature, Oregon's EV rebate will end on May 1.

We understand that there are many constraints this session and thus **recommend a one-time funding allocation to help the program come out of suspension and maintain current service levels through the 2023-2025 biennium.** House Bill 2613, would fully fund the rebate in the next biennium and will greatly help the State in achieving our greenhouse gas emissions reduction and air quality goals. At a time when it is the state policy to convert our fleet to emission free vehicles we must do everything possible to make them affordable for Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Iannarone
Executive Director, The Street Trust