



March 29, 2023

Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
RE: HB5018

Dear Legislators,

The Lake Oswego Sustainability Network, a Lake Oswego ten year old non-profit actively working for a sustainable future for our current community and future generations, strongly support restoring fund for the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP).

Right now a glaring omission in the Agency's budget is 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.

LOSN supports 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 - it seems absolutely incongruous to make them less affordable for Oregonians

When LOSN worked with our city staff in the development of a Climate Action Plan it became clear that the one activity that would have the greatest climate reduction impact in the shortest amount of time was to promote electric vehicles in our community.

Our organization has held five Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive events each fall as part of National Drive Electric week with tremendous success. Hundreds of people attended from out the Portland metro region to test drive EVs and talk to dozens of owners about their EV experience.

EV registrations in 2021 were over 1600 vehicles, a 270% increase before we held our events.

Currently we are working with Portland General Electric on an EV charger pilot program to place EV chargers on utility poles next to multifamily housing. Our intention is to let tenants know that EV charging is readily available for them.

The suspension of OCVRP seriously undercuts our work and hurts not only our community but in turn the whole region and state.

Respectfully,
LOSN Board of Directors

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