

Submitter: William Sergeant
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2613

I am a former ride share and delivery driver who worked for a few years in Portland and along the I-5 corridor through Salem and Eugene. When my van was rear-ended and totaled in 2020, I did careful research on what options were out there to replace it with. I needed to consider primarily what would save me money, allowing me to pay my bills, but I also wanted to buy an ethically responsible vehicle. I liked the idea of driving an electric vehicle, but I thought it was way out of reach financially. I considered a hybrid, but I still would have been dependence on gas and responsible for all of the repairs that come with combustion engines. In my research, I came across the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, and I qualified for the Charge Ahead Rebate.

Without these incentives, there is no way that I could have afforded the purchase of an EV. It is only with these rebates that I was able to purchase the Chevy Bolt that I continue to drive today. Not having to pay for gas meant so much more money in my pocket, and I even found that my tips improved significantly. Most conversations with my riders revolved around how EVs function, and I realized that I had become a sort of ambassador for electric vehicles. A lot of passengers told me that they were on the fence about it, and I'm sure that many of them went on to purchase EVs after talking to me and experiencing what its like to ride in one.

I can't stress enough how important incentives like these are for people like me. They help create affordability of electric vehicles for working people, many of whom rely on ride share and delivery work, at least as a side hustle if not for their full time jobs. The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program helps take polluting vehicles off of Oregons roads in an equitable way, by easing the economic burden most often placed on disadvantaged communities. Please ensure that it continues to be funded.

Warmly,

William Sergeant