



February 3, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Re: SB 550

Dear Chair Sollman and committee members:

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

Transportation options that meet the needs of all Oregonians should be available in every community. For people with disabilities, these needs often include the use of electric wheelchairs, which are costly to maintain, and for some people aren't covered at all by health insurance. There are very few authorized service providers who can work on electric wheelchairs, so wait times for repairs or basic maintenance can be lengthy.

By adding electric wheelchairs and complex rehabilitation technology to the law granting Oregonians the right to acquire the tools, parts, and more that are needed to maintain these devices, we will keep Oregonians moving. Electric wheelchairs are essential to disabled people's independence, well-being, and participation in our community. Oregonians should have the choice and access to repair their devices.

1000 Friends urges the legislature to support Senate Bill 550.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Cassie Wilson*

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