

To: Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and committee members
Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Regarding: Prioritizing Climate Action in the next State Budget

I am writing to urge you to prioritize protecting and investing in Oregon's climate progress and climate resilience.

We are facing chaos and uncertainty coming from our federal government including attacks on clean air and water, affordable energy, and the integrity of our public lands. If we fail to act and protect our climate progress, all Oregonians will feel the negative impact and especially people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and working families.

Investing in climate resiliency means investing in community resiliency. We all deserve to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and heat and cool our homes without facing outrageous utility bills. That's why I'm calling on you to prioritize the following budget investments:

Heat Pumps (SB 5518) - \$30 million for Rental Home Heat Pump and \$15 million for Community Heat Pump Deployment Programs. For many families, a heat pump can be a lifeline. Heat pumps mean lower utility bills when costs are skyrocketing, safety from deadly heat, and being able to afford and stay in housing. These programs help keep people safe, housed, and secure in their communities.

One Stop Shop 2.0 (HB 3081) - Oregonians need more support navigating all the programs to upgrade their homes and buildings through incentives and rebates for efficient heat pumps, improved insulation, sturdier doors and windows, and clean electric cooking. One Stop Shop 2.0 will help families get direct assistance from someone in their area to make their home projects more affordable.

Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program / Charge Ahead (DEQ) - \$30 million to lower the upfront costs for Oregonians to purchase electric vehicles. Due to overwhelming demand and limited funding, the OCVRP program has consistently been suspended. Accelerating the adoption of EVs means cleaner air, better public health, and improved economic mobility for Oregonians. Prioritizing funding for the Charge Ahead program will increase equitable access to EVs and deliver cost saving benefits for low- and moderate-income households across Oregon.

Community Renewable Energy Program (SB 5518) - \$25 million for community-scale resilience projects like microgrids and solar + storage projects for Tribes and local municipalities outside Portland city limits.

Medium and Heavy Duty Electric Vehicle Rebates & Infrastructure Grants (DEQ) - \$30 million to accelerate the adoption of zero emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks to lower health costs and reduce climate pollution from our largest source. Every year in Oregon, diesel engine exhaust is responsible for an estimated 176 premature deaths, 25,910 lost work days and annual costs from exposure of \$3.5 billion.

Thank you,
Brian Stewart
Co-founder
Electrify Now