

Submitter: Rick Kronewitter
On Behalf Of: NA
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

March 22, 2025
Oregon Joint Ways & Means Committee Members
Mount Hood Community College Meeting
Portland, OR

Good morning, Committee Members,

My name is Rick Kronewitter. I've lived in the same SW Portland home for 35 years with my wife, Chandra. We have one child, our daughter Wave, who now lives in North Portland. I'm here today on their behalf, and I am here with a broken heart.

I've come with a broken heart because my 30-year old daughter no longer wants to have a child of her own. She is afraid to bring a baby into this world! And it's no wonder! Climate change is no longer just a distant threat; it is a pressing reality that affects us all. During four different windstorms, three of which occurred in the last 10 years, large, long-standing trees in our yard and neighborhood were toppled or snapped. During the heat dome, where temperatures reached 115 degrees, the bark on a 40-foot maple, right next to our house, split on both sides of the trunk, halfway up the tree!

Climate change as evidenced by increasing numbers of wildfires, droughts, windstorms, and heat domes are the greatest threats to our trees, our timber industry, agriculture, ranching, air & water quality, public health, and our quality of life. My daughter sure as heck knows it. And I dare say, climate change is the most pressing threat to each and every one of our family trees.

The climate crisis clearly demands immediate and decisive action. As residents who have cherished our home and community for decades, we urge you to prioritize funding for two programs which will accelerate the continued adoption of electric vehicles.

The first of these critical programs is the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program. History shows us that these rebates are wildly successful in incentivizing EV adoption. We know this because the program has run out of money, less than half-way through each of the last two years. I suggest that the previous annual budget of \$12 million be increased to \$30 million to ensure funding lasts through the end of each year. You've heard of accent the positive -- well here's our chance to do it in a very meaningful way.

I'd also like to give a shout out to the Charge Ahead program which is geared towards delivering significant cost-savings to low- and moderate-income households throughout the state, that choose an EV for their next vehicle.

The second incentive measure I strongly support is the Medium and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Rebate & Infrastructure Grants program. Replacing diesel and gasoline guzzling trucks with EV trucks will reduce air pollution in our cities and improve health for those residents, and those living in industrialized areas. I strongly recommend establishing a \$30 million budget for this program.

Reducing the use of fossil fuels is one of the very best things we can do for our future generations, and the future generations of all living things. Together, and with your help, we can protect our environment, improve public health, and ensure that the legacy we leave for our children is one of hope and promise.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Rick Kronewitter
Portland