EXECUTIVE ORDER 10 - 09

TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

After years of innovation and development, electrification of the transportation system is fast becoming a reality. The announced market introduction of electric vehicles and plug-in electric vehicles by nearly all of the major automakers, including Daimler, Ford, General Motors, Nissan, Mitsubishi and others, demands that public and private bodies embrace this new technology as an integral part of our transportation future. In addition to passenger vehicles, manufacturers are also introducing electric trucks that will also impact the transportation landscape.

Oregon, as national leader in sustainability, is at the forefront of early adoption. In addition to the manufacturers that have already chosen Oregon as a launch site, the company eTec was awarded nearly $100 million in federal funds to build the nation’s largest electric vehicle charging network, with Oregon as part of this network. In addition, many local Oregon companies are developing electric vehicles, including neighborhood and three wheel electric vehicles, electric utility vehicles, electric motorcycles and an entire range of technologies to support these vehicles and the charging infrastructure needed to power them.

Currently, Oregonians spend billions annually on fossil fuels to meet their transportation needs. By using domestic and renewable sources of energy, we can lessen our dependency on foreign energy from unreliable sources abroad. Electrically propelled vehicles are much cheaper to operate, need less maintenance, and emit a fraction of the greenhouse gas emissions than traditional vehicles. In addition, Oregonian’s use of electric vehicles will help Oregon meet its commitment to renewable energy established in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, ORS 469.050 et seq.

Oregon is also been on the forefront of planning and setting the table for this emerging technology. In 2008, Oregon hosted the “Meeting of the Minds” conference to explore these new electric transportation options. Since then, Oregon business and political leaders have visited manufacturers in Asia and Europe to bring the world to Oregon. The Oregon Public Utility Commission late last year opened a review process into setting electric vehicle rates and determining the role that the Commission will play in electric vehicle infrastructure development. In January of this year, a report by the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Working Group (Working Group), created by Executive Order 08-24, submitted its report that focused on infrastructure deployment and opportunities for developing alternatives to gasoline powered vehicles.

Among the top recommendations of the Working Group, was the call for a creation of a panel to assist in creating an agenda for the introduction and general deployment of electric vehicles, infrastructure and related services in Oregon. This Order creates the Transportation Electrification Executive Council to address the
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need to focus and coordinate public, private and civic leadership in ensuring that Oregon is well-positioned to capitalize on the economic benefits of transportation electrification.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Governor’s Transportation Electrification Executive Council (Executive Council) is established.

2. The Executive Council shall consist of no more than 12 members appointed by the Governor. The Executive Council shall consist of members from both the public and private sector with expertise in business development, energy policy, transportation, and sustainability. A member of the Public Utility Commission, a member of the Oregon Transportation Commission, the Director of the Department of Energy, the Director of Oregon Business Development Department, and the Bonneville Power Administration, or their designees, shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Council.

3. Members of the Executive Council serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

4. The Executive Council shall:

   a. Develop a work plan on how Oregon can be the leader in the new emerging electric vehicle technologies, including both introduction of vehicle and associated technology and manufacturing vehicles and components. This work plan shall also include strategies for future deployment of electric vehicles statewide;

   b. Provide a initial point of contact for companies that are looking to invest in Oregon jobs in the electric transportation industry, including vehicle assembly and manufacturing, charging infrastructure, information technology, and related services;

   c. Collaborate on existing efforts to ensure Oregon’s leadership in electric vehicles and related technologies and avoid duplication of efforts;

   d. Enhance state, regional and local strategic efforts to deploy electric vehicle infrastructure in Oregon;

   e. Facilitate development of public education and acceptance outreach campaigns to accelerate the transition to electric transportation, including education and training of Oregon’s workforce to prepare for electric vehicle infrastructure; and
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f. Identify opportunities and barriers to adoption and recommend policy and administrative initiatives to the Governor.

5. The Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Business Development shall work with the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC) and the Oregon Solutions Program through the Oregon University System to provide support for the efforts of the Executive Council. The Executive Council may also seek support from other state agencies as needed to fulfill its responsibilities.

6. Executive Council members are not entitled to reimbursement of expenses or per diem provided in ORS 292.495.

7. This Order shall remain in effect until August 31, 2011.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 22nd day of September, 2010.

Theodore R. Kulongoski
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE