Mark Gamba, Mayor City of Milwaukie 10722 SE Main Street Milwaukie, OR 97222

February 7, 2019

Public Utility Commission of Oregon 201 High Street SE, Suite 100 Salem, OR 97301-1166

## **Re: PGE EV Support Letter**

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Milwaukie ("City") strongly supports Portland General Electric's ("PGE") proposed transportation electrification pilots.

Last October, the City Council unanimously adopted a strategy within a city-wide Climate Action Plan that encourages a shift to electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions and become a fully carbon-neutral city by 2050. Improving access to affordable and efficient transportation options is critical to improving economic opportunity, wealth building, and upward mobility. PGE's transportation electrification proposals align with our strategy for electric vehicles and commitment to create mobility solutions that are equitable, empowering, and clean.

 PGE's proposals to collaborate with TriMet and Transportation Network Companies (TNC) support the City and the Portland Metro Region's transportation hierarchy for people movement: prioritizing shared transportation over private vehicles. By reducing TriMet's first cost to electrify their bus fleet, PGE will enable TriMet to purchase a fifth electric bus and electrify an entire bus route. By engaging TNC drivers, PGE will grow a network of electric vehicle ambassadors that will advocate for benefits of electric transit. By collaborating with TNC networks and transit agencies, both of whom play important roles in providing transportation services to underserved communities, PGE's proposal helps bring electric transportation to a broader audience.



CITY OF MILWAUKIE • 10722 SE Main St, Milwaukie, OR 97222 • www.milwaukieoregon.gov

## PAGE 2 OF 2

- PGE's Electric Avenue program will increase the availability and accessibility of
  public charging infrastructure. As we will see in the City with Electric Avenue,
  public charging increases awareness of and conversations about electric vehicles.
  Additional public charging stations will open doors for individuals who
  otherwise would have nowhere to charge and to consider purchasing an electric
  vehicle (e.g. multi-family residents and TNC drivers). Additionally, visible
  public charging infrastructure is greatly needed in the City and will help
  residents adopt electric vehicles and facilitate the City's increasingly electrified
  fleet.
- Finally, changing the perception of electric vehicles from expensive to accessible to all income levels will help bring the benefits of cleaner, lower cost transportation to more households. By offering education and outreach, PGE will raise awareness that there are electric vehicles available on the market likely to meet any car buyer's needs.

We are not only excited about the opportunities that PGE's proposals create, but believe that PGE's proposals are necessary for us to reach our Climate Action Plan goals. We are committed to working with PGE to make their pilots a success.

The City of Milwaukie fully supports PGE's proposed efforts and recommends that the Commission approve them.

1/1 Sincerely,

Mark Gamba, Mayor City of Milwaukie

181