Dear Gloriann Robinson,

As climate change rages and wealth inequities worsen, I am very concerned about barriers that lower income people experience when trying to participate in reducing their carbon footprint. In this regard I support the minimum payment methods proposed in the draft rule language of WAC 16-662 EV Supply Equipment issued on April 11, 2022. These payment methods promote the inclusion of all three payment methods as essential because they are necessary to facilitate charging sessions for unbanked, underbanked, or low-moderate income drivers.

According to Technology Review, 43 percent of drivers with incomes less than $50,000 do not have a tap card and 30 percent of drivers with incomes less than $50,000 do not have access to smartphones with contactless payment ability. Additionally, veterans’ benefits, social security and SSI disability payments are paid out on the Direct Express Debit MasterCard, when an individual does not have access to a bank account. This is an EMV chip card, which does not have tap/contactless payment capability. Credit card readers are therefore one way to make it easier for consumers to use this equipment, and to expand access to these services to vulnerable populations, which is critical to meeting our climate and equity goals.

I urge the Washington State Department of Agriculture to adopt final rules that make public EV charging more accessible by requiring:

- A credit card reader that accepts an Europay, Mastercard, and Visa (“EMV”) chip at the EVSE unit or kiosk
- A mobile payment device on the EVSE unit or kiosk
- A toll-free number on each EVSE unit or kiosk

Thank you for your thoughtfulness on this important subject. We know the EV industry and even public utilities are fighting these draft rules based on the cost to their budgets and bottom lines. I appreciate your bravery in supporting full public accessibility not just an ideal but as a civic right.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Madrigal
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Ask me about my company, Woman on the Good Side!

My name is: Elizabeth ~ エリザベス Erizabesu ~ 伊麗莎白 Yilishâbái ~ U-Elizabeth ~ אליזבת ~ Elizabet ~ 'iilyzabith ~ एलिज़ाबेथ elizaabeth ~ Elisabetta ~ อิลิซ่าเบธ olizabet ~ エリザベット Eli sā beṭh ~ Elizabeto ~ エリザベート Elijabet