



February 21, 2018

## Oregon Progressive Party

### Position on Bill at 2018

### Session of Oregon Legislature:

## HB 4060: Need to Reform Financial Incentives for Electric Vehicles to Remove Bias Against Small Ones; Comments on Proposed Amendments

Dear Committee:

On February 12, I testified that HB 2017, enacted in 2017, offers various rebates and credits for electric and hybrid electric vehicles, but only for large vehicles capable of achieving 55 mph and for "neighborhood electric vehicles," which are required to have 4 wheels. It fails to provide incentives for the vehicles that will most effectively reduce energy use, pollution emissions, and traffic congestion: smaller vehicles, including tricycles, using electric power or human and electric power together. My full testimony is appended to these comments on the proposed amendments.

We support these amendments that are listed in the table as PENDING:

- Sec 89(1)(a) PENDING Modifies definition of "bicycle" to include electric assisted bicycles (current definition says "propelled exclusively by human power")
- Sec 89(6)(g) PENDING Remove "electric assisted bicycle" from definition of "taxable motor vehicle" for privilege tax (will instead be subject to bicycle excise tax)

These amendments, however, do not address the fundamental problem with HB 2017: It fails to provide incentives for small electric and hybrid human-electric vehicles.

My February 12 testimony included photos of the TruckTrike, a highly efficient cargo carrier. Below are photos of some small electric vehicles that apparently would not qualify for the HB 2017 incentives. Of particular note (first 4 images) is the human-electric recumbent tricycle that is being used in the Vancouver BC bike rental program. This can transport single persons at over 20 times the efficiency of a conventional car and also increase the capacity of our roads and bridges by riding 2 abreast. The manufacturer of this vehicle is struggling to obtain needed investment and to obtain sufficient orders to warrant mass production. Financial incentives in Oregon for purchase of such vehicles could ensure the success of this effort.





## Oregon Progressive Party

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**February 12, 2018**

**Oregon Progressive Party  
Position on Bill at 2018  
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

**HB 4060: Need to Reform Financial Incentives for Electric  
Vehicles to Remove Bias Against Small Ones**

Dear Committee:

HB 2017, enacted in 2017, offers various rebates and credits for electric and hybrid electric vehicles, but only for large vehicles capable of achieving 55 mph and for "neighborhood electric vehicles," which are required to have 4 wheels. It fails to provide incentives for the vehicles that will most effectively reduce energy use, pollution emissions, and traffic congestion: smaller vehicles, including tricycles, using electric power or human and electric power together.

Substituting 3,000 pound electric cars in place of 3,000 pound internal combustion cars will prolong the underlying problem of having a personal transportation system that expends 80% or more of its energy usage on moving the vehicle itself, not its contents.

The rebates and credits should be available to smaller electric and hybrid human-electric vehicles, such as electric bicycles and tricycles. There are many dozens of makes and models on the market, but their sales are quite low due to the up front cost of the electric motor and related systems and components. Providing a sizable rebate for electric-assist bicycles and tricycles would take many thousands of large vehicles off the road, most of which usually carry only the driver.

The rebates should also be available for electric scooters that have no human power input. While less efficient than electric-assist bicycles and tricycles, electric scooters remain 5 times as efficient for transporting one person that the smallest conventional electric car. There are now electric scooters that enclose the driver, providing protection from the weather.

Getting people out of cars and into bicycle, tricycles, and scooters would also by itself significantly increase the capacity of Oregon's streets and roads. These vehicles can safely proceed 2 or 3 abreast on a street or road lane of conventional width. Electric-assist bicycles and tricycles can also safely use bike paths and bike lanes.

Thus, HB 2017 overlooked the single most effective way to reduce energy use, emissions, and traffic congestion from passenger vehicles in Oregon.

It also overlooked a very effective way of reducing pollution from diesel trucks and greatly increasing energy efficiency in transporting freight--the hybrid human-electric powered tricycle, for which HB 2017 provides no incentives. Several European cities have banned combustion-engine trucks from their central areas. Goods are delivered there by electric vehicles, including fleets of hybrid human-electric powered tricycles, as shown in the photos below. The DHL system using modular containers on tricycles is shown at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrYLwv9x8HU>. This DHL system is operating in 80 cities (but not in USA).

Encouraging use of such vehicles in Oregon (and throughout the USA) would produce additional economic benefit for Oregon, because the nation's foremost manufacturer of such vehicles is located in Portland. Stites Design, Inc., has produced the few hybrid human-electric powered tricycles acquired by United Parcel Service (see photos below) for service in the USA. (The man in the suit jacket is the chairman and CEO of UPS.) See <http://www.trucktrike.com>. A video about the use of tricycles by UPS is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bd4YNrfwNNs>. A video about the TruckTrike is here: <https://vimeo.com/208410142>.

Using cargo tricycles for central urban area deliveries would not only reduce pollution but would also reduce traffic congestion and free up on-street parking space, a large portion of which is now reserved for trucks.

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