

As a longtime Oregon resident, I would like to offer my testimony **supporting HB2571**.

When the pandemic hit, I had been without a car and relying on public transit for about three years. Once transit became a riskier (Covid) route of travel to work and recreation, I started looking at alternatives, including motor scooters. My partner recommended an e-bike over a motorscooter due to safety. I was a middle-aged, non-athletic woman that had not ridden a bike in about 40 years.

With the 2020 Covid stimulus payment, I could afford my low-cost \$1500 e-bike as others I looked at were over \$2500. Three years later, this middle-aged, non-athletic woman has put almost 4000 miles on my e-bike as my main transportation.

Below are some of the benefits I've experienced by having the accessibility to e-bikes:

- **Fun:** getting on my bike is fun - I love the feeling of freedom I get when I ride my e-bike
- **Cost-effective:** I spend about \$200 a year on bike maintenance and now am learning how to work on my e-bike thanks to YouTube and Portland-area groups.
- **Increased confidence:** building core strength and balance has been helpful as I age
- **Mental health boost:** driving can be stressful (road rage, anyone?), but with my e-bike, I do not experience the stress of traffic or being in a car. Anytime I need a mood boost - rain or shine -I get on my e-bike and go for a ride. The change in my mood and brain cannot be understated.
- **Better driver:** In the past, as a car driver, I had my license suspended due to traffic violations (speeding tickets). After being on my e-bike and navigating roads, I'm a much more conscientious and aware driver any time I get behind the wheel of a car now. I drive slower and give more attention to pedestrians and cyclists than ever. I hear this from a lot of cyclists. Cycling has made me aware of how dangerous cars can be to pedestrians and others and has dramatically changed my driving mindset.
- **Overall health:** While I have an e-bike, I don't passively use the pedal assist all the time. I push myself when riding, which has increased my strength and cardiovascular benefits. The benefit to my health, strength, and confidence has pushed me to explore other recreational activities like roller skating.
- **Speed:** My trips are shorter than, or just about the same, with traffic as transit and driving a car (and much more enjoyable, even in the rain)
- **Love for my city/state:** Riding my e-bike means moving through the city differently than in a car/transit. I see people and issues I may not have seen before, making me a more considerate community member. I fall in love again with Oregon every time I'm on my e-bike. After living in Oregon for 32 years, my affection for my city and state only grows through my e-bike adventures.

My life would be dramatically different without the accessibility of an e-bike. Having an e-bike vs. a traditional bike meant that even *I* could be a *cyclist*. My e-bike has opened so many doors to community and health that I find invaluable. The accessibility of e-bikes in a world where we are trying to reduce traffic and reliance on fossil fuels means we will see dramatic changes in our cities and state quickly.

I urge you to support HB2571 - a small financial impact on the state budget that will see positive changes for Oregon and its residents for years to come.

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