



CITY OF BEND

February 7, 2023

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CITY MANAGER

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House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2571 City of Bend Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pam Marsh, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair Emerson Levy, and members of the Committee,

I write to express the City of Bend's full support of HB 2571, which creates a state-wide rebate program that would subsidize the purchase and use of electric assisted bicycles. We already provide subsidies for electric cars at the state and federal level. Providing the same financial incentive and support for an e-mobility solution that is growing more popular by the day makes great sense for Oregon.

Bend recently pursued and received a grant from Pacific Power to start our own local program to provide qualifying low-income individuals with \$2,000 instant rebates towards the purchase of an e-bike. We are very excited to join other localities, like Denver, CO and Benton County, OR, in promoting the use of clean electric mobility and creating more access to comfortable bike commuting and recreating for more people in our community. The programs in these cities have shown that e-bikes help riders to replace car trips and offer a more sustainable, climate-friendly option for getting around cities. It's time to scale this idea up and make a real impact across the state.

Several of our City Council members own and regularly ride e-bikes. We know first-hand the benefits that increased biking via electric assistance can bring to a community. We also know the financial cost of an e-bike, including cargo e-bikes that can be especially useful for families, is a barrier for many people. A state-wide rebate program will increase equity and access in our transportation system while helping us to fight climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of Bend urges the Committee to unanimously support HB 2571 and move it forward with full support to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "MKebler".

Melanie Kebler
Mayor of Bend