

Submitter: Kenath Sponsel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

I am strongly in favor of HB2571, rebates for electric assist bicycles.

Ebike rebates open up transportation options for people who don't have access to or budget for a car and who don't have access to transit with regular service (7 days/week, 15 minute frequency or better).

It's only fair, given EV cars enjoy up to \$10,000 in rebates, that electric bicycles and other smaller EVs would enjoy a similar type of rebate program.

Active transportation in general, and ebikes in particular, are in line with Oregon's environmental stance to reduce carbon emissions.

Given that the average car trip is under 3 mi and that 60% of all car trips taken in Portland are 5 mi or less, e-bikes stand to replace a majority of short distance car trips. This would enormously reduce tailpipe emissions, and microplastic emissions from car tires and brakes.

People replacing car trips by bike would also alleviate traffic congestion, improve air quality, reduce wear and tear on the roads, and increase pedestrian safety by reducing the number of trips taken using passenger cars, pickup trucks, and SUVs.

Additionally considering safe routes to school e-bikes would enable parents to drop off their children without waiting at endless cues of cars it would allow middle schoolers and high schoolers who either can't yet drive or don't have access to a car to get themselves to school or to extracurriculars without their parents needing to drive them everywhere. This would dramatically increase access to the greater city for children and free up thousands upon thousands of hours of productive time for parents in the workforce.

Ebikes are also a great mobility option for people who can no longer ride a regular pedal bike or who cannot walk but find pedaling easy.

Speaking for myself personally, if I had an e-cargo bike I could replace 90% of the car trips that I make regularly including dropping off my daughter at a grandparent's house or at daycare.

My 10 Mile commute takes 45 minutes to an hour to ride on a non-e-assist bicycle . By public transit I have to drive to a transit center, wait for the MAX, and ride the MAX 30 minutes.

If I drive, it takes less time but I have to fight traffic, find parking, pay for parking, pay to maintain my vehicle and I generally get less enjoyment out of life if I'm inside a vehicle or inside a building all the time getting little to no fresh air or exercise.

By comparison with an e-bike with a maximum 20 mph assist, my commute would

take 30 minutes door-to-door, in street clothes, arriving at the office without needing to shower .

This would be life-changing for me.

The choice is obvious: introduce rebates for the purchase of new ebikes for as many Oregon residents as possible and you will,

Increase the mobility of Oregon residents

Reduce carbon emissions

Improve public health

Improve public safety

Increase social and economic equity

Return thousands of hours of productive time to working parents

Build autonomy and independence in the state's youth

Thank you

Sincerely,

Kenath Sponsel

Oak Grove, Oregon