

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

When I first learned about the climate crisis and the impact on future generations it was rarely in the news. I was commuting daily from NE Portland to Beaverton for work when I attended a presentation of Al Gore's, An Inconvenient Truth. His compelling story about the climate crisis drove me to look for ways to decrease my own carbon foot print. I could not afford an electric car so I gave up my daily drive and instituted a bike and MAX train commute. It took almost an hour longer and it helped my get into better physical shape.

Several co-workers also considered a bike commute but many of them had young children they needed to get to day care. Electric bikes were not common at that time. Now they can be a solution for people with children too young to join the commute on their own bicycles. I remember the first time I saw a person I considered 'super woman' cruising through my neighborhood with two children and groceries for dinner. My feelings of inferiority lessened when I realized she had electric assist.

Getting out of our cars has many health and air quality advantages and electric 'eBikes' make that a practical solution for people with longer or hilly commutes or kids and cargo to carry. Electric assist bicycles cost several times more than a standard 'commuter bike'. This rebate program will help defray a large portion of the cost. Local bike sellers will benefit from increased sales and we will benefit from cleaner air and healthier Oregonians as increase our bike community.

I encourage you to send HB 2571 on to the House with a 'do pass' recommendation.

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