

Submitter: Mariah Lynch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

The state's investment in an e-bike rebate is an investment in climate change mitigation and public health. Though not an e-bike user myself, I am eager to see this rebate program in Oregon—especially for my peers (older Millennials) moving to the last affordable edges of the Portland metro and older adults who might otherwise drive (or be driven). This novel transportation option expands housing and job options for Oregonians, liberating them to live further from work while staying under budget. Aging and retired adults can stave off facility care and dial-a-ride needs, enabling them to stay active and independent for as long as possible.

But the cost of an e-bike is prohibitive. We've already seen an uptick in e-bike ownership (which is great), but I suspect the primary demographic of "early adopters" are the inner-city, able-bodied, upper-middle-class. Those folks played an important role in normalizing and expanding the e-bike market—now, it's time to grant the opportunity to other deserving Oregonians by lifting the financial burden.