

Submitter: James Caplan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB2571.

I have been a resident of Roseburg since 2002. I have been a long-time bicyclist, outdoorsman, hunter, and community volunteer. My wife, Cheryl, and I developed the Cycle Umpqua website several years ago as a means of advancing bicycle tourism in the Umpqua Valley and providing encouragement for local bicyclists of all ages, skill levels, and abilities. We both own and occasionally ride Level One mid-motor e-bikes.

Based on our personal experience and the comments of others, we know the Umpqua Valley hills can be challenging for riders with disabilities, older folks, novice bicyclists, and people with lower fitness levels. Electric mobility devices, particularly bicycles, create much greater access for many people to our wonderful landscapes and rural communities while improving residents' fitness and reducing fossil fuel dependency. They can also serve as primary transportation for some people who don't have access to a private vehicle or timely public transit.

Many lower-income Douglas County residents, often those with the most financial, health, and fitness challenges, would benefit from meaningful State subsidies. Those subsidies could make all the difference as to whether they could purchase a quality e-bicycle and gain health and financial benefits from its use. Please pass HB2571.

Once again, thank you.