

Submitter: Jonathan Owens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

Me, my wife, and our two kids live in Northeast Portland and have one car. The car is used to take kids to school and run all necessary errands for groceries, family care, etc. I work from home, and my wife regularly needs the car to see her family and take care of errands. This leaves me somewhat stranded at home, unable to run errands further than a short bike or bus ride away. Bus service in our neighborhood is not great, and any workday errands would take a very long time on the bus. I have a chronic illness which leads to fatigue and muscle soreness. Conventional bicycles are exhausting for me to ride for more than half a mile or so.

An electric bike would be a great, cost-effective way to increase my mobility and free up time. I could comfortably ride to appointments in a much larger range. I wouldn't need to pay insurance, fuel and maintenance for another car. But the cost of the bike has been a problem. Illness has meant a pay cut at work, so there's little room in the budget for a bike of sufficient capability to be truly useful.

This bill would make it possible for me to experience greater freedom to enjoy the city I live in, free up time for my wife to see her family and take care of appointments, and lower our overall stress level for having to coordinate schedules. Please pass this bill.