To: Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Re: Support for HB 2571

Dear Committee Members,

I'm a parent whose family began using electric cargo bikes in August 2021 to help transport our kids to school. Given the ease with which we could haul kids and cargo on our e-bikes, we soon realized we could use them as a replacement for the vast majority of our car trips. In total, we've put over 6,000 miles on our e-bikes in just under 18 months. Nearly all of these miles are trips we otherwise would have taken by car, meaning ***our family's e-bikes alone are responsible for 6,000 fewer miles' worth of:***



- congestion on our city's roads and bridges
- pollutants in our air, including in the carline at our kids' school
- $CO_2$ in our atmosphere
- wear and tear on our infrastructure
- safety hazards for other road users (due to operating a 65-pound bike instead of a 2-ton car)

We were able to afford e-bikes specifically because we made a commitment to remain a one-car household even as our family grew to five members (three adults, two kids). Such a commitment is not the norm—especially for families with higher incomes—but this bill has the potential to change that. While amendments tailoring the legislation to low-income individuals are understandable, it's important to note that in order to meet our climate goals, this bill should encourage a cleaner transportation alternative for *as many Oregonians as possible*. Bikes are often seen as recreation rather than a mode of transport, so a $3-4k purchase may seem too pricey even to those with moderate or high incomes. Many people don't realize an e-bike's full potential for replacing a car until after the bike has been purchased and used.

For this reason, I urge you to not only support this bill, but to also maintain low barriers and high incentives to ensure that as many Oregonians as possible adopt e-bikes as a mode of transport.

Sincerely,

Melissa Kostelecky
MS in Environmental Policy and Management,
Graduate student studying transportation at PSU