

Hello, I am a Physical Education teacher in the Hood River County School District. My residence is 15 minutes away from where I teach via car/truck. My main source of transportation is a diesel pickup. My commute is a perfect example of how an e-bike could be used.

Diesel trucks are expensive to drive in 2023. Going downhill and uphill everyday creates a lot of wear and tear on the brakes and transmission of my vehicle. Coupled with the added cost of diesel fuel and diesel exhaust fluid, driving is very expensive for me and my family.

Owning an e-bike has been a goal of mine for about 5 years. I see other people riding e-bikes for their morning and afternoon commute and think, "what a fantastic opportunity to save money and live a healthier lifestyle." The main obstacle for me owning an e-bike is finances. They are simply not affordable for someone like me that has 4 children and a mortgage in a town like Hood River, where the cost of living is higher than most places in Oregon.

As a physical education teacher, it is a priority to me to model healthy living for my students. Setting an example for them to hop on their bike and ride to and from school would create multiple opportunities to discuss lifestyle choices and the freedom to say, "anyone can purchase an e-bike because they are affordable now. Ask your parents if they have heard about how to get an e-bike through HB 2571."

I am also an outdoorsman. An e-bike would be my main source of transportation in the forest, traveling to and from locations that are difficult to access via foot and by truck.

I support HB 2571 as a husband, father of 4, and educator of our next generation of healthy citizens. Making e-bikes affordable will create opportunities for other families just like mine in our town that need transportation options.

Thank you for your time and consideration.