

Paxton Rothwell  
Portland, OR 97212

Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
RE: Support HB 2571

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair Emerson Levy, and other members of the Committee,

My name is Paxton Rothwell and I live in Northeast Portland. I've lived in Portland for the last five years. In this time, I began using bike transportation as my main form of transportation. And, due to a career transition, I was not able to afford the costs of keeping my car. While this transition was difficult for me to make at first, especially in the wetter months, I have been able to adjust.

Biking is a liberating form of transportation. Like a car, you can choose when you leave, the route you take, and roughly know how long it will take you to get there. Unlike a car, the distance, topography, weather, and what you can comfortably carry severely affects your ability to choose to bike for a certain trip. Because I cannot replace all of my trips with bike trips, I still must have access to a car even though I live in a part of Portland with a 95+ walk score.

An e-bike would change my life. I would be able to comfortably take 95% of trips by bike. I would be able to comfortably bike in all weather conditions without having to manage layers as my body warms up while I exert myself. I would be able to tackle hills easily, make a large grocery run, and reach further distances in the city if I had access to an e-bike.

But I don't. And the main reason I don't is because I can't afford the purchase. I support HB 2571 because it would give me and people like me the opportunity to afford this amazing transportation tool.

E-bikes have the potential to revolutionize transportation. They take up a smaller amount of space than a car, emit zero carbon emissions while operating, and are massively safer to people outside of cars than cars are. Bike infrastructure is cheaper to build and maintain than car infrastructure.

Oregonians, especially Portlanders, already see bike transportation as a useful way of getting around. E-bikes would help give access to riding a bike to many more people who do not feel confident about riding today. This would in turn help push the needle and encourage municipalities (and ODOT) to build serious, and useful, bike infrastructure. Oregon will not be able to cut its carbon emissions in time without taking bike, and e-bike, ridership seriously. Providing a rebate to those interested in, but not able to fully afford, an e-bike will help Oregon create a better, low carbon, transportation system for everyone.

Please support HB 2571.

Sincerely,  
Paxton Rothwell  
PCP to HD-43