



February 8, 2023

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon & OSPIRG support House Bill 2571

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, member-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. OSPIRG is a statewide, public interest group. We support House Bill 2571, which would create an incentive program for electric bicycles (e-bikes).

Transportation is Oregon's number one source of climate pollution, with greenhouse emissions from cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles surpassing every other source. We simply can't solve climate change without changing how Oregonians get around.

E-bikes enable more people to go further and faster than can on a traditional bike, making them a practical replacement for short car trips. According to the Bureau of Transportation, 52% of all trips taken in the US in 2021 on all modes of transportation were less than three miles, and 28% of trips less than one mile. For many of these short journeys, an electric bicycle can be a practical, sustainable alternative to driving a car.

Creating an incentive program for e-bikes will get more people out of their cars and reduce overall vehicle miles traveled. In fact, research has shown that when a household purchases an e-bike, their vehicle miles traveled decreases by a third. With an e-bike, Oregonians can commute, haul cargo, run errands, go for bike rides with friends and family, get in shape and more.

House Bill 2571 would allocate \$6 million from the general fund to provide up to a \$1200 purchase incentive on an electric bicycle with a minimum purchase price of \$950 and \$1700 for the purchase of an electric cargo bike. E-bike incentives have proven to have a bigger bang for the buck in terms of climate pollution reduction per dollar spent than other electric vehicle incentives. We believe this is worth the investment. Please pass House Bill 2571.

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director, Environment Oregon

Charlie Fisher
State Director, OSPIRG