

Submitter: Zachary Lesher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

Members of the committee,

A U.S. department of energy study showed that in 2021, 52% of all trips taken by car were under three miles. Each of those trips represents more congestion, more exhaust in our lungs, more expensive damage to our roads, more danger to vulnerable road users, and a missed opportunity for physical exercise. Those are also trips that could be easily made by an electric bike.

Moreover, studies have indicated that e-bike rebate programs are more cost-effective than subsidies for electric car purchases, as demand for e-bikes is much more elastic, the bikes themselves are much cheaper overall, and an estimated 93% of electric car subsidies go to households that would have purchased an electric car anyway, whereas e-bike subsidies often eliminate barriers to potential e-bike buyers, such as the lack of good financing options, that would normally have prevented such a purchase.

I urge you to support this bill, as it is a rare opportunity to save the state and Oregonians money while also making us all happier and healthier, and meeting our climate goals.