

Submitter: Estelle Morley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

I moved to Portland in 2009 to challenge myself to ditch my car and rely solely on my bicycle and public transit to get around. I realized that cars represent so much failure in our American history. Failure to protect our ecosystems and environment. Failure to create a safe, habitable space free from the threat of vehicular violence. Failure to build a more sustainable, holistic and healthy social infrastructure which encourages play and positive interaction, rather than aggression and mortal engagement. For instance, after 13 years of successful bike commuting, I was hit by a drunk driver while cycling in July/2021. After suffering lethal injury, 47 days in the hospital, and a seemingly never ending rehabilitation and recovery process; I ultimately realized I would not be able to ride my traditional bicycle any longer. Ultimately though, I did not allow the horrifying collision and subsequent trauma from ending my love affair with cycling. I did LOTS of research in the year following my collision, and found my perfect E-bike. My E-bike cost close to \$5000, but it is one that will likely last me the rest of my life. It is an investment in my health and my social fabric. My E-bike has allowed me to adapt my new body to cycling, while permitting me the freedom to still enjoy one of my first real passions: I love exploring cities by bike. Having said this, I hope Oregon's legislators, as well as our Federal lawmakers, also ultimately realize the value of E-bikes. They REMOVE cars from the road rather than simply modifying them to electric, permitting them to maintain their lethal space, and even adding more cars to our already overburdened and unaccountable roads. Please, establish and then adequately market an E-bike rebate, and just WATCH what happens here in Oregon and especially in Portland. There will surely be an E-bike revolution. \*\*Let's just also make sure they're held to account, and kept to appropriate spaces, if they hit speeds above 18MPH\*\* Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration. -Estelle M Morley