

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation
re: HB 4067**

February 16, 2024

**Jacqui Treiger, Campaign Manager: Climate and Transportation
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 4067

Dear Chair Gorsek, Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boquist, Vice-Chair Boshart Davis and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Environmental Council, I am writing to express support for HB 4067 establishing an electric micromobility taskforce.

E-bikes are an established, but still changing transportation mode. They have helped more people of all ages use active transportation options that improve personal health, they are more affordable than cars, and they reduce traffic pollution and congestion. Because they have zero tailpipe emissions and Oregon's electric grid is on a path to 100% clean electricity, e-bikes and other electric travel options in our communities lower climate and air pollution. The transportation sector makes up 40 percent of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, of which, 62 percent is from passenger cars and trucks. To achieve Oregon's climate goals and reduce the air pollution across the state, we need to both reduce vehicle miles traveled and electrify the remaining miles. According to the US Department of Energy, in 2022, a substantial majority of U.S. vehicle trips were less than 6 miles long, and only about 6.9% longer than 30 miles. Having an e-bike can replace many of these trips and studies have shown that the addition of an e-bike into a household reduces their vehicle miles traveled by 30%.

Conventional vehicles not only emit greenhouse gasses but also air pollution, including NOx, Particulate Matter (PM), and Ozone. The American Lung Association's State of the Air Report Card gave Oregon failing grades for nearly all counties where data was collected. This air pollution is linked to higher rates of premature death, cancer, heart disease, and breathing problems like asthma in kids and adults. Changing modes of transportation to an e-bike will help reduce the air pollution being emitted into our neighborhoods.

Furthermore, an estimated one in three Oregonians can't or don't drive. Electric micromobility devices are quickly proving to be one of the most equitable, accessible transportation options available.

We support the goal of the taskforce to "examine how electric micromobility devices can be best utilized to promote equity, safety and climate goals in the transportation sector." It is important that we have infrastructure that supports safe bike and walking and on-going investment in bike lanes, sidewalks, and slowing traffic will ensure our system works better for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope you **support HB4067**.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Treiger
Campaign Manager: Climate and Transportation
Oregon Environmental Council