

Submitter: Russell Brown  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963

I am the proud owner of a Specialized Turbo Vado 4.0, detachable battery, circa 2020. Her name is Carmen. My gross annual income at the time of purchase was \$52,000. \$3,250+ was a bit of a lift for me, but it didn't break the bank by any means, and more than 4 years later, I still use it at least twice a week. In fact, it's the main thing that has allowed our household to be a one car household. My partner owns an electric bike as well, and having the security of two viable means of transportation even if our car broke down makes me feel extremely grateful.

But we are privileged to be able to afford to lease a nice car. We are privileged to have been able to afford those bikes without any help—although my partner did need to finance his bike rather than purchase it outright. We are privileged to be able to afford to drop hundreds of dollars on bike gear and rain gear and tune ups, etc. We don't have kids and we don't have to worry about teaching them the rules of the road and the subtle differences between biking vs. driving vs. walking on the streets.

We have privileges that lots of other people don't. Providing rebate vouchers to those who make (significantly) less money than us to defray the costs of buying an electric bike would reduce traffic jams, enable more people to bike recreationally and to commute further distances without a car, encourage more people to stay active and healthy, allow for greener streets and less pollution, encourage more recreation and community connection, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The only people who have any plausible claim against this policy are the tax hawks screaming "not with my tax dollars!" And to those people, I'd say, "Have you tried riding an electric bike? Make a trip to Portland or Bend, give it a shot. You might like it. In fact, I will bet you \$20 you'll enjoy it. And if you do, and if you make below \$\_\_\_\_ per year, I hope you'll join me in asking the government for a little help in buying one.