

Submitter: Aaron Wolf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963

I'm writing with qualified support of subsidizing the purchase of ebikes. I have some concern about this legislation because I worry about whether it will be attacked by critics who are skeptical, and I don't think this is the most important place to focus our resources. That said, we need to invest in every way we can into viable alternatives to driving. The only way to address congestion and all the other problems of car-focused transportation (pollution, noise, deadly crashes, endangered childhoods, social isolation, and more) is to get people safe and enjoyable ways to get around without cars and trucks.

Ebikes are one piece of the puzzle in offering alternatives to driving. Everyone who gets one and really uses it (and has safe infrastructure for getting where they want to go) will end up greatly appreciating it.

In my family, I use a class-1 ebike with a FollowMe attachment to get my son to and from school, 5 miles each way. My wife commutes half-time 15 miles each way on a class-3 ebike. My son has met so many neighbors and friends just being out in the world, and he has a sense of his community and internal map of our city. His classmates who take cars everywhere miss out on all this.

I would most wish that we remove subsidies for all the car-based systems we have, and there are many other steps besides purchase subsidies that might be more effective. But whatever succeeds at transitioning our society away from car-dependency is healthy for everyone, including being fiscally responsible, as car-based infrastructure is the most costly part of our modern world.