

Submitter: Joseph Stenger
On Behalf Of: myself and all of us
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963
Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Committee:

My name is Joseph Stenger. I am writing in support of HB 2963. I am Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee of MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of experienced volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

To achieve our state goals for reducing emissions, we need more people to shift some of their travel from cars to less-polluting modes such as active transportation. Electric bicycles are an efficient way to travel. They are easier for someone who may not have a high fitness level to go longer distances, to arrive a little quicker, and to carry heavier weight, for example a parent transporting children. More people biking means fewer people driving, which means less traffic and shorter travel times for those who do drive, less wear to roads, fewer autos competing for parking spaces, fewer autos to cause crashes, and cleaner air. It's a win all the way around!

Since cost is a barrier for many to acquire an ebike, a rebate voucher program will make shifting to bike travel accessible to people who could not otherwise. This bill targets this assistance to persons already enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan, thus directing funding to those who have already demonstrated that they have low income. This lowers administrative costs by piggybacking onto an existing program. Acquiring an ebike will also lower the costs of transportation for people with low incomes.

Taking up cycling improves health, reduces health costs, and infuses more enjoyment into daily travel. Cycling in any form also builds community and supports local businesses.

"Time and time again we see a significant link between people who bike and strong, resilient economies," said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. "When local communities invest in making bicycling safer and more accessible to more people, the return on investment is clear for individuals and society at large from cost-savings on public health, to job creation, to small businesses' growth, and more. We hope that by continuing to highlight the real economic benefits experienced in places across the U.S., we will inspire more communities and businesses to plan, design, and build destinations that empower more Americans to choose bicycling as a means of transportation and recreation."
<https://bikeleague.org/bicycling-benefits-business/>

There are so many reasons to support this bill! A robust ebike rebate program will

benefit us all.

Thank you for all your work on our behalf!

Joseph Stenger