

Submitter: Rebecca Sanders
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,
I write in support of HB 2963 and the effort to provide an e-bike subsidy to Oregonians. E-bikes have been demonstrated to be a powerful tool to increase mobility for families, yet their out-of-pocket cost, while much lower than that of most cars, can still be a burden for lower-income families. E-bike subsidies provide a bridge for individuals or families to be able to attain an e-bike and then set themselves up for wide-ranging mobility at a much lower cost of transportation year-round. E-bikes are particularly critical for individuals who cannot afford a car or cannot or do not want to drive for myriad reasons, given that e-bikes allow easier riding up and around hills, carrying groceries, equipment, and/or children, and reaching longer distances while still looking and feeling professional. Every person I know who has an e-bike has declared it "life-changing."

E-bikes can also play a key role in meeting regional and state congestion and environmental goals. Because they are so practical, e-bikes literally take cars off the road, reducing congestion and speeding up commutes for everyone. E-bike trips are particularly likely to replace short car trips, which are the biggest contributor to gridlock, freeing up space on streets, reducing parking demand, and improving traffic flow. A subsidy would help more Oregonians choose e-bikes, easing strain on our roads and making commutes faster for everyone, including people who drive.

Finally, because e-bikes make it easier to go further with less effort, they can play a critical stopgap role in communities that lack access to reliable or frequent transit. For these communities, e-bikes offer freedom and flexibility, especially for those in historically underserved areas. A subsidy will empower rural, suburban, and urban residents alike by expanding access to safe, efficient, and sustainable mobility.

I urge you to support HB 2963 to create a more robust and accessible transportation system for all roadway users throughout Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.