

Submitter: Rich Peppers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963  
Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Committee:

My name is Rich Peppers, and I live in Portland and am a volunteer community advocate with Mobilizing Climate Action Together (MCAT). I urge your support for HB 2963.

This bill proposes a helpful method for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which is to encourage people to switch from driving fossil fuel powered vehicles to other modes of travel that are less carbon-polluting, so reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in traditional cars. There are multiple other methods to travel (clean public transit, rail, bikes or scooters, e-bikes, and of course walking) and while all need more development, HB 2963 addresses e-bikes.

Electric bicycles are easier for someone who may not be at a fitness level sometime required for regular bike travel, helps those needing to carry more cargo weight, such as a parent transporting children or returning from grocery shopping. 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.

A rebate voucher program proposed in HB 2963 will make shifting to bike travel accessible to people who could not otherwise afford it. The bill keeps administrative expenses low by targeting its assistance to persons already enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan who have thereby already demonstrated that they have low income. In this way, acquiring an ebike also lowers transportation costs for people with low incomes.

Thank you for your consideration.