

Submitter: Nathan DeSpain
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963

Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain, members of the committee, I'm Nathan DeSpain and I write in support of HB 2963.

When I moved from a house to an apartment, I did not have a way to reliably and easily charge my modest EV, so I replaced it with a cheap internal combustion vehicle and an e-bike. However, I ended up using my e-bike far more often than my car. With some easy-to-attain amenities like a basket, a rear rack, and some roomy side bags, I was able to commute to work, visit friends, and even run significant errands like grocery store visits all on my bike. I once biked an assembled wooden coat rack home using only rope, my bike, and some ingenuity. Over time, I realized that all these trips I'd been making by bike were less stressful and more time efficient than transit or even driving. I eventually sold my car because I used it so little.

E-bikes provide a happy medium between a traditional bicycle and a car. The journey over the hills between my home and office is an intense ride on a normal bike. It would require a shower and change of clothes upon arrival. However, e-bikes take those steep hills easily with minimal exertion. I'm able to ride straight to work, no shower needed, and conveniently take my bicycle inside my workplace to charge back up for the ride home. I'm able to start working immediately after arrival.

As a smaller, lighter, electric-powered vehicle, e-bikes cause less wear-and-tear on public infrastructure, produce far lower levels of other vehicle pollutants like brake and tire dust, and personally saves me a lot of money in fuel and maintenance costs. Additionally, the frequent moderate exercise and time spent outside, even on rainy days, has been an invaluable support to my mental and physical health.

I was lucky to have the financial means to afford an e-bikes before I knew it could meet all my transportation needs. I support this bill because it will give more people the opportunity to discover e-bikes as the incredible resource they are, while contributing greatly to Oregon's fiscal and physical well-being.