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**Testimony to the Joint Transportation Committee  
on House Bill 2592**

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Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports the -4 amendments to HB 2592.

Since 2017, when the electric vehicle rebate in HB 2017 was initiated, we have learned of a type of electric vehicle that could be very helpful in reducing urban congestion and pollution and freeing up on-street parking space. Known as “electric cargo trikes,” these heavy-duty cargo vehicles can complement and even replace mid-sized delivery vans, moving freight more efficiently in very dense situations where trucks can't maneuver easily and often have to double-park.

An October 2018 article by Forbes—[Cargobikes Not Drones Are The Future For Urban Deliveries](#)—discusses recent research that concludes that electric cargo trikes could deliver up to 20% of urban cargo and that cities would be better served by using these lighter, smaller vehicles for last-mile delivery. They can be far faster than a van, and can be unloaded much faster (the average loading and unloading time for delivery vans is 12 minutes, while the same amount of freight can be unloaded from an electric cargo trike in as little as three minutes).

It's especially exciting that we have manufacturer of such vehicles in Portland. [TruckTrikes](#) is an Oregon company that is part of the solution to urban congestion and pollution.

Extending the EV rebate to this class of electric vehicles makes sense for a variety of reasons. Not only are greenhouse gas emissions from freight growing, when fueled by diesel, freight movement also adds to our air quality problems. This innovative new way to move goods will improve public health, reduce congestion, and free up parking spaces.

In reviewing the definition of electric cargo trikes in the -4 amendment, we see one area that needs clarification. The amendment defines the trikes as a “motor vehicle” but they can also be human propelled. The fix could be as simple as removing the word “motor” in front of “vehicle,” but that's a question for Legislative Counsel.

Thank you for your consideration.