

Submitter: Alida Cantor, Portland, OR 97206

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2571, which provides a rebate for electric bicycles.

I am a working mother living in Portland. Nearly every day, I use my electric bicycle to take my children to daycare and myself to work. My commute is seven hilly miles each way, with children on board. This would simply be too much effort if not for the e-assist on my bike. Over the past four years I have put nearly 5,000 miles on my e-bike, essentially all of which represent car replacement miles. I have enjoyed the fresh air, the extra exercise, and the ability to get myself and my kids to work and school on time in all weather without having to use a car. I have also saved a lot of money by avoiding gas, car repairs, and parking fees. And of course, I have avoided producing greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbating traffic problems. It is not an exaggeration to say that having an e-bike has changed the way I approach mobility and transportation.

All of this has been possible because I was lucky enough to be able to afford an e-bike out of pocket. This is definitely not the case for everyone. E-bikes are expensive. A rebate like the one proposed in this bill would be hugely beneficial in allowing far more people to access e-bikes. In other cities, similar recent rebates have proved extremely popular. When people have access to e-bikes, they can easily replace everyday car trips— work commuting, school dropoffs, daily errands— with bike trips, reducing carbon footprints significantly.

Electric cars already receive subsidies. These larger e-vehicles are arguably less beneficial than e-bikes to the state of Oregon. They require far more resources to produce, including valuable minerals such as lithium, which are mined in ways that are often harmful to communities and the environment. Electric cars do not address issues of traffic congestion: e-bikes, on the other hand, can help alleviate the need for expensive projects like freeway widening. Subsidizing e-bikes, which can change mobility patterns for the better, is unquestionably a smart way to spend our state tax dollars.

I hope you will support HB 2571 and help more people access e-bikes.

Sincerely,
Alida Cantor